

ESTTA Tracking number: **ESTTA1085287**

Filing date: **09/29/2020**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	92025859
Party	Defendant General Cigar Co., Inc.
Correspondence Address	ANDREW DEUTSCH DLA PIPER LLP US 2000 AVENUE OF THE STARS SUITE 400 LOS ANGELES, DE 90067 UNITED STATES Primary Email: Andrew.Deutsch@dlapiper.com Secondary Email(s): David.Huff@dlapiper.com, mkrinsky@rbskl.com, joshua.schwartzman@us.dlapiper.com, john.nading@us.dlapiper.com 212.335.4880
Submission	Testimony For Defendant
Filer's Name	/Andrew L. Deutsch/
Filer's email	andrew.deutsch@us.dlapiper.com, Joshua.Schwartzman@us.dlapiper.com, john.nading@us.dlapiper.com, Valerie.fadis@us.dlapiper.com
Signature	/Andrew L. Deutsch/
Date	09/29/2020
Attachments	Abbot Annex BB 01.pdf(6054015 bytes ) Abbot Annex BB 02.pdf(6081506 bytes ) Abbot Annex BB 03.pdf(6057057 bytes ) Abbot Annex BB 04.pdf(5944178 bytes ) Abbot Annex BB 05.pdf(6041161 bytes ) Abbot Annex BB 06.pdf(5922432 bytes ) Abbot Annex BB 07.pdf(1262345 bytes ) Abbot Annex CC.pdf(4806702 bytes ) Abbot Annex DD.pdf(4041171 bytes ) Abbot Annex EE.pdf(109914 bytes )

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: February 17, 1981

AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: June 6, 1995

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EMPRESA CUBANA DEL TABACO, d.b.a.	:	
CUBATABACO,	:	
	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
v.	:	
	:	
GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.,	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	
	:	
-----	X	

Steven Abbot – Annex BB



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• •[CIGARS](#)[MACHINE MADE](#)[\\$3 CIGARS](#)[DEALS](#)[MORE](#)




## 601 Red Label Habano

**Average Customer Review:** • • • • • • 0.00 0 Reviews

The 601 brand has always had a loyal following due to Erik Espinosa's ability to bring a meticulously blended premium handmade cigar to the market at an affordable price, and the 601 Red Label Habano cigars are no exception. These beauties employ an oily Habano wrapper over the brands signature blend of aged Nicaraguan binder and long fillers to provide 601 cigar fans with the rich full-bodied Cuban-style flavors that they have come to love. The Red Label cigar is a well-rounded smoke that displays some earthiness and a rich tobacco sweetness accented with buttery smooth notes of cocoa, cedar, and caramel.

**GET 20% OFF!**

## Best Sellers in 601 Red Label Habano

<p><b>BEST SELLER</b></p>  <p><b>\$151.30</b></p> <p><b>601 Red Label Habano</b> Trabuco 6.12 × 58 Box of 20 <b>Save \$26<sup>70</sup></b></p> <p><a href="#">Quick View</a></p>	<p><b>BEST SELLER</b></p>  <p><b>\$134.30</b></p> <p><b>601 Red Label Habano</b> Robusto 5 × 50 Box of 20 <b>Save \$23<sup>70</sup></b></p> <p><a href="#">Quick View</a></p>	<p><b>BEST SELLER</b></p>  <p><b>\$138.55</b></p> <p><b>601 Red Label Habano</b> Churchill 7 × 48 Box of 20 <b>Save \$24<sup>45</sup></b></p> <p><a href="#">Quick View</a></p>
---	--	--

## Buy 601 Red Label Habano

Sort by

Recommended

**BRAND GET 20% OFF!**

**WRAPPER SHADE**



☐ 601 Red Label Habano☐ EMS**STRENGTH****REGION**☐ Full☐ Nicaragua**PACKAGING**☐ Box**LENGTH**

0

7

**RING**

0

58

**PRICE**

\$134.3

\$151

[. .List](#)[. .Grid](#)

..

\$151.30

**601 Red Label Habano**

Trabuco

6.12 × 58

Box of 20

**Save \$26.70****GET 20% OFF!**

..

\$134.30

**601 Red Label Habano**

Robusto

5 × 50

Box of 20

**Save \$23.70**

Quick View



..

\$138.55

**601 Red Label Habano**

Churchill

7 × 48

Box of 20

**Save \$24<sup>45</sup>**

Quick View



..

\$141.95

**601 Red Label Habano**

Torpedo

6.12 × 52

Box of 20

**Save \$25<sup>05</sup>**

Quick View



..

\$138.55

**GET 20% OFF!**

**601 Red Label Habano**

Quick View

Toro

6 × 50

Box of 20

**Save \$24<sup>45</sup>**



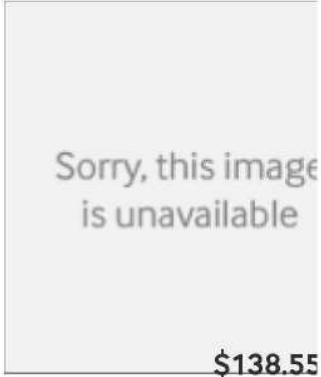
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The banner features a close-up of a hand holding a blue and red JR Plus cigar. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.



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## CLE Chaparros Habano

**Average Customer Review:** ★★★★★ 4.00 1 Review

Incorporating a core of aged Nicaraguan tobaccos with a stunning reddish-brown wrapper, CLE Chaparros Habano cigars bring a ton of rich Cuban-style flavors to the CLE brand portfolio. While admiring the flawless construction and crisp slow burn, you will savor a full-flavored smoke brimming with satisfying flavors of white pepper, espresso, nuts, and cream. Handmade premium CLE Chaparros Connecticut cigars are presented in a 4x54, 4x60, and a whopping 4 x70 format making it the perfect selection for smokers that like their sticks short, fat, and delicious.

**GET 20% OFF!**



## Buy CLE Chaparros Habano

Sort by

Recommended

### BRAND

☐ CLE Chaparros Habano

### WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

### STRENGTH

☐ Medium - Full

### REGION

☐ Honduras

### PACKAGING

☐ Box

☐ 0 4

### RING

☐ 0 70

### PRICE

☐ \$171.45 \$193.96

≡ List

≡ Grid





### CLE Chaparros Habano

4 x 70

4 x 70

Box of 25

**Save \$21<sup>55</sup>**

**\$193.95**

Quick View



### CLE Chaparros Habano

4 x 60

4 x 60

Box of 25

**Save \$20<sup>40</sup>**

**\$183.60**

Sold out

★★★★☆ 1 Review



**\$171.45**

### CLE Chaparros Habano

4 x 54

4 x 54

Box of 25



**Save \$19<sup>05</sup>**

Sold out

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**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Belicoso  
6.12 × 54  
Box of 20

[Quick View](#)



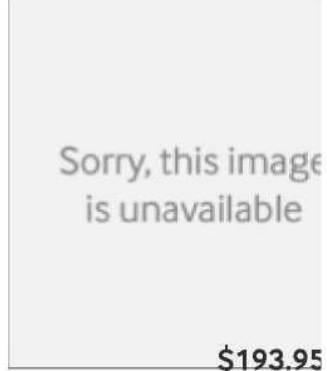
DEAL

Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$113.95

**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Robusto  
5.50 × 48  
Box of 20

[Quick View](#)



Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$193.95

**CLE Chaparros Habano**  
4 x 70  
4 × 70  
Box of 25

[Quick View](#)

**GET 20% OFF!**

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## Cuba Aliados




Average Customer Review: ★★★★★ 4.38 8 Reviews

Cuba Aliados, one of our hottest selling premium cigar brands from the 90's is back, and better than ever! Still produced by the famous Reyes family in Honduras, this classic blend features a core of aged Dominican and Nicaraguan fillers, covered by a seamless chocolate-brown Ecuador Sumatra wrapper. The core line of four popular sized vitolas provides a medium to full body smoke oozing with delectable flavors of earth, dark peppery spices, nuts, and cedar, however the brands latest installment, the Cuba Aliados Cabinet Limitado Torpedo cigar, is crafted solely with tobaccos grown on the Reyes family's Honduran farm in Honduras. This limited-edition beauty, also medium to full body in strength, is brimming with complex layers of pepper, coffee bean, cocoa, and a semi-sweet chocolate finish.

**GET 20% OFF!**



## Best Sellers in Cuba Aliados

<p><b>BEST SELLER</b></p>  <p><b>\$60.00</b></p> <p><b>Cuba Aliados</b> Super Mazos 456 4 × 56 Box of 20</p> <p><a href="#">Quick View</a></p>	<p><b>BEST SELLER</b></p>  <p><b>\$60.00</b></p> <p><b>Cuba Aliados</b> Super Mazos 4x60 4 × 60 Box of 20</p> <p><a href="#">Sold out</a></p>	<p><b>BEST SELLER</b></p>  <p><b>\$80.00</b></p> <p><b>Cuba Aliados</b> Belicoso 6.50 × 56 Box of 20</p> <p><a href="#">Sold out</a></p> <p>★★★★★ 3 Reviews</p>
---	---	--

## Buy Cuba Aliados

Sort by

Recommended

**BRAND GET 20% OFF!**

**WRAPPER SHADE**

Cuba Aliados

Medium

## STRENGTH

## REGION

☐ Medium - Full☐ Honduras

## PACKAGING

☐ Box☐ Bundle

## LENGTH



0

6.5

## RING



0

60

## PRICE



\$45

\$85

List

Grid



\$60.00

**Cuba Aliados**~~Super Mazos 456~~

4 × 56

Box of 20

**GET 20% OFF!**

\$60.00

**Cuba Aliados**

Super Mazos 4x60

4 × 60

Box of 20

[Quick View](#)

Sold out



\$80.00

**Cuba Aliados**

Belicoso

6.50 × 56

Box of 20



\$60.00

**Cuba Aliados**

Super Mazos

5 × 60

Bundle of 20

Sold out

★★★★★ 3 Reviews

Sold out

★★★★☆ 1 Review

GET 20% OFF!



**Cuba Aliados**

Torpedo

6 × 52

Box of 10

**\$45.00****Cuba Aliados**

Regordo

6 × 60

Box of 20

**\$85.00**

Sold out

Sold out

★★★★★ 2 Reviews

**\$45.00****\$60.00****Cuba Aliados**

Cabinet Limitado Torpedo

6 × 50

Box of 10

**Save \$405<sup>00</sup>****Cuba Aliados**

Super Mazos Robusto

5 × 56

Box of 20

Sold out

Sold out

★★★★☆ 1 Review

**GET 20% OFF!**



\$75.00

**Cuba Aliados**

Toro

6 × 53

Box of 20

Sold out

★★★★★ 1 Review



\$70.00

**Cuba Aliados**

Robusto

5 × 50

Box of 20

Sold out

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**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Belicoso  
6.12 × 54  
Box of 20

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★

DEAL

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\$113.95

**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Robusto  
5.50 × 48  
Box of 20

Quick View



\$60.00

**Cuba Aliados**  
Super Mazos 456  
4 × 56  
Box of 20

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## Cuban Aristocrat

**Average Customer Review:** • • • • • **4.62** 8 Reviews

Packed in nostalgic turn of the century 20-count boxes, Cuban Aristocrat cigars are affordable premium handmade cigars crafted by the renowned Jochy Blanco in the Dominican Republic. These well-crafted sticks come dressed in your choice of two tasty wrapper styles atop well-aged binder and filler tobaccos. And, depending on the blend of choice, you will experience either a mellow and creamy smooth, or a rich and satisfying medium to full-bodied smoke that is reminiscent of those great old Habano's of yesteryear. With such versatility, there's an Aristocrat available to suit just about any cigar enthusiasts taste.

**GET 20% OFF!**

## Best Sellers in Cuban Aristocrat

<div><b>BEST SELLER</b></div> <div></div> <div><b>\$76.20</b></div> <div><b>Cuban Aristocrat</b> Connecticut Double Toro 6 × 50 Box of 20 <b>Save \$13<sup>40</sup></b> <a href="#">Quick View</a></div>	<div><b>BEST SELLER</b></div> <div></div> <div><b>\$78.20</b></div> <div><b>Cuban Aristocrat</b> Connecticut Torpedo 6 × 52 Box of 20 <b>Save \$13<sup>80</sup></b> <a href="#">Quick View</a></div>	<div><b>BEST SELLER</b></div> <div></div> <div><b>\$78.20</b></div> <div><b>Cuban Aristocrat</b> Maduro Toro 6 × 50 Box of 20 <b>Save \$13<sup>80</sup></b> <a href="#">Quick View</a>  ★★★★☆ 2 Reviews</div>
---	---	--

## Buy Cuban Aristocrat

Sort by

Recommended

**BRAND GET 20% OFF!****WRAPPER SHADE**

☐ Cuban Aristocrat☐ EMS☐ Maduro☐ Natural**STRENGTH**☐ Medium☐ Medium - Full☐ Mellow - Medium**REGION**☐ Dominican Republic**PACKAGING**☐ Box**LENGTH****RING****PRICE**[. .List](#)[. .Grid](#)

\$76.20

**Cuban Aristocrat**  
Connecticut Double Toro

**GET 20% OFF!**

\$78.20

**Cuban Aristocrat**  
Connecticut Torpedo

6 × 50  
Box of 20  
**Save \$13<sup>40</sup>**

Quick View



\$78.20

**Cuban Aristocrat**  
Maduro Toro  
6 × 50  
Box of 20  
**Save \$13<sup>80</sup>**

Quick View

★★★★☆ 2 Reviews



6 × 52  
Box of 20  
**Save \$13<sup>80</sup>**

Quick View



\$82.40

**Cuban Aristocrat**  
Maduro Churchill  
7 × 50  
Box of 20  
**Save \$14<sup>40</sup>**

Quick View





**Cuban Aristocrat**

Connecticut Toro

6 × 50

Box of 20

**Save \$13<sup>00</sup>****\$74.20**[Backorder](#)

★★★★★ 3 Reviews

**Cuban Aristocrat**

Maduro Double Toro

6.25 × 54

Box of 20

**Save \$14<sup>20</sup>****\$80.20**[Quick View](#)

★★★★★ 2 Reviews



..

**\$76.20****Cuban Aristocrat**

Maduro Robusto

5 × 50

Box of 20

**Save \$13<sup>40</sup>**[Quick View](#)

★★★★★ 1 Review

**GET 20% OFF!**

..

**\$80.20****Cuban Aristocrat**

Maduro Torpedo

6 × 52

Box of 20

**Save \$14<sup>20</sup>**[Sold out](#)



..

\$78.20

**Cuban Aristocrat**

Habano Torpedo

6 × 52

Box of 20

**Save \$13<sup>80</sup>**

Sold out



..

\$76.20

**Cuban Aristocrat**

Habano Double Toro

6.25 × 54

Box of 20

**Save \$13<sup>40</sup>**




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 \$80.20 <b>Cuban Aristocrat</b> Maduro Double Toro 6.25 × 54 ← Box of 20 <a href="#">Quick View</a>	 \$78.20 <b>Cuban Aristocrat</b> Maduro Toro 6 × 50 Box of 20 <a href="#">Quick View</a>	 \$82.40 <b>Cuban Aristocrat</b> Maduro Churchill 7 × 50 Box of 20 → <a href="#">Quick View</a>
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JR Auctions

Blending Room

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DEALS

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All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > Cuban Rounds

Average Customer Review: ★★★★★ 2.50 2 Reviews

Cuban Rounds cigars are Nicaraguan puro made with a short filler blend of aged Cuban seed tobaccos. By using a sandwich style of bunching, these tightly rolled premium tobaccos burn as slow and evenly as a long filler cigar. It's a medium to full body smoke with spicy and peppery top notes backed by nuances of coffee, cedar, and cream, that combine to offer a very tasty and satisfying affordable every day cigar.

### All brands in Cuban Rounds


<https://www.jrcigars.com/cigars/handmade-cigars/cuban-rounds/>

9/21/2020  
GENC0048731



## Best Sellers in Cuban Rounds

BEST SELLER



\$34.00

Cuban Rounds

Robusto


5 x 50

Bundle of 20

Save \$6.00

Quick View

BEST SELLER



\$41.65

Cuban Rounds

Churchill

7 x 48


Bundle of 20

Save \$7.35

Quick View

★★★★☆ 1 Review

BEST SELLER



\$39.10

Cuban Rounds

Toro


6 x 50

Bundle of 20

Save \$6.90

Quick View

BEST SELLER



\$41.65

Cuban Rounds

Churchill

7 x 48

Bundle of 20

Save \$7.35

Quick View

## Buy Cuban Rounds

Sort by


Recommended

GET 20% OFF!

Showing 7 items


Results per page

20

			
★	★	★	★
<b>\$34.00</b>	<b>\$39.10</b>	<b>\$41.65</b>	<b>\$41.65</b>
<b>Cuban Rounds</b>	<b>Cuban Rounds</b>	<b>Cuban Rounds</b>	<b>Cuban Rounds</b>
Robusto	Toro	Churchill	Churchill
5 × 50	6 × 50	7 × 48	7 × 48
Bundle of 20	Bundle of 20	Bundle of 20	Bundle of 20
<b>Save \$6.00</b>	<b>Save \$6.90</b>	<b>Save \$7.35</b>	<b>Save \$7.35</b>

Quick View

Quick View



**CUBAN  
ROUNDS**  
*Taste of Havana*

★☆☆☆☆ 1 Review

Showing 7 items

Results per page

20



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\$121.95

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Belicoso  
6.12 × 54  
Box of 20

Quick View

★

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\$113.95

**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Robusto  
5.50 × 48  
Box of 20

Quick View

★



\$43.35

**Cuban Rounds**  
Torpedo  
6 × 52  
Bundle of 20

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- CIGARS   MACHINE MADE   SAMPLERS   5-PACKS   HUMIDORS   CIGAR ACCESSORIES   PIPES   GIFTS   \$3 CIGARS   DEALS

All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > Cuban Twist







Average Customer Review: ★★★★★ 3.17 18 Reviews

Handmade in Honduras, the mellow and flavorful Cuban Twist Cigars are masterfully crafted, and aged to perfection. The filler consists of Honduran, Dominican Piloto Cubano, and Nicaraguan tobacco from Jalapa. A thick Honduran binder and a light San Andres wrapper from Mexico complete and further compliment this extraordinary blend. Complex notes of dark spice, cocoa, earth, cedar, and a sweet smoky aroma create a heavenly smoking experience. If you demand a quality product at an affordable price, then it's time to put the popular Cuban Twist Cigars at the top of your shopping list.

GET 20% OFF!

## Best Sellers in Cuban Twist

<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$43.40</div></div>	<div>Cuban Twist</div> <div>Churchill</div> <div>7.50 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$760</div> <div>Sold out</div> <div>★★★★☆4 Reviews</div>
<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$35.40</div></div>	<div>Cuban Twist</div> <div>Robusto</div> <div>5 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$620</div> <div>Sold out</div> <div>★★★★☆9 Reviews</div>
<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$43.40</div></div>	<div>Cuban Twist</div> <div>Double Toro</div> <div>6.25 x 54</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$760</div> <div>Sold out</div> <div>★★★★☆4 Reviews</div>
<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$39.60</div></div>	<div>Cuban Twist</div> <div>Toro</div> <div>6 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$700</div> <div>Sold out</div> <div>★★★★☆1 Review</div>

## Buy Cuban Twist

Sort by

Recommended ▴ Showing 4 items

Results per page 20 ▴

GET 20% OFF!

BRAND

☰ ☲ ☳

Cuban Twist

WRAPPER SHADE

EMS

STRENGTH

Medium - Full

REGION

Dominican Republic

PACKAGING

Bundle

LENGTH

07.5


RING

054

PRICE

\$35.4

\$43



Cuban Twist

Churchill

7.50 x 50

Bundle of 20

Save \$7.60

\$43.40

Cuban Twist

Double Toro

6.25 x 54

Bundle of 20

Save \$7.60

\$35.40

Cuban Twist

Robusto

5 x 50

Bundle of 20

Save \$6.20

\$39.60

Cuban Twist

Toro

6 x 50

Bundle of 20

Save \$7.00

Sold out

Sold out

Sold out

Sold out

★★★★☆4 Reviews

★★★★☆4 Reviews

★★★★☆9 Reviews

★★★★☆1 Review

Showing 4 items

Results per page

20

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https://www.jrcigars.com/cigars/handmade-cigars/cuban-twist/

9/21/2020  
GENC0048739

★

DEAL

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\$121.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

★

DEAL

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

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## Best Sellers in Cubiche

<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>Cubiche</div><div>Cubanilla</div><div>4 x 40</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$27<sup>ss</sup></div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆ 5 Reviews</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>Cubiche</div><div>Red Vixen</div><div>4 x 40</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$27<sup>ss</sup></div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆ 5 Reviews</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>Cubiche</div><div>Mojito</div><div>4 x 40</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$27<sup>ss</sup></div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆ 4 Reviews</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>Cubiche</div><div>Brownie</div><div>4 x 40</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$27<sup>ss</sup></div><div>Sold out</div></div></div>
---	---	---	---

## Buy Cubiche

Sort by

Recommended ▴ Showing 5 items

Results per page 20 ▴

GET 20% OFF!

BRAND

**Cubiche**  
XO Reserve  
4 x 40  
Box of 25  
**Save \$27<sup>55</sup>**

**GET 20% OFF!**

Showing 5 items

Results per page

20



## Recently Viewed

<div>DEAL</div> <div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$121.95</div> <div><b>Romeo y Julieta Pasion</b> Belicoso 6.12 x 54 Box of 20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>DEAL</div> <div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$113.95</div> <div><b>Romeo y Julieta Pasion</b> Robusto 5.50 x 48 Box of 20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$34.95</div> <div><b>Sabor Cubiche</b> Cubanilla Corona 4 x 40 Box of 25</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$34.95</div> <div><b>Sabor Cubiche</b> Mojito Corona 4 x 40 Box of 25</div> <div>Quick View</div>
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<https://www.jrcigars.com/cigars/handmade-cigars/cubiche/>







packed in cedar chests of 25, convenient carry-along boxes of five, and even economical single-cigar selections, all of which make zesty additions to the collections of full-bodied-cigar fans buying tried-and-true traditional cigars online.

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## Best Sellers in El Rico Habano

BEST SELLER



\$30.15

El Rico Habano  
Corona Suprema  
6 x 50  
Box of 5

Save \$880

Quick View

★★★★☆29 Reviews

BEST SELLER



\$150.60

El Rico Habano  
Corona Suprema  
6 x 50  
Cedar Chest of 25

Save \$4115

Backorder

★★★★☆28 Reviews

BEST SELLER



El Rico Habano  
Double Corona  
7 x 48

Save \$4765

Cedar Chest of 25

\$164.60

Backorder

★★★★☆2 Reviews

BEST SELLER



El Rico Habano  
Double Corona  
7 x 48

Save \$189

Single

\$6.60

Backorder

★★★★☆2 Reviews

GET 20% OFF!

# Buy El Rico Habano

Sort by

Recommended

Showing 7 items

BRAND

☐ El Rico Habano

WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

☐ Maduro

STRENGTH

☐ Full

REGION

☐ Dominican Republic

PACKAGING

☐ Box

LENGTH

07.5

RING

054

Results per page

20

Grid

Menu

★

\$30.15

El Rico Habano

Corona Suprema

6 x 50

Box of 5

Save \$880

Quick View

★★★★☆29 Reviews

El Rico Habano

Corona Suprema

6 x 50

Cedar Chest of 25

Save \$4415

Backorder

★★★★☆28 Reviews

El Rico Habano

Double Corona

7 x 48

Save \$4765

Cedar Chest of 25

Backorder

★★★★☆2 Reviews

El Rico Habano

Double Corona

7 x 48

Save \$189

Single

Backorder

★★★★☆2 Reviews

El Rico Habano

Double Corona

7 x 48

Save \$189

Single

Backorder

★★★★☆2 Reviews

El Rico Habano

Double Corona

7 x 48

Save \$189

Single

Backorder

★★★★☆2 Reviews

PRICE			
<div><div></div><div></div></div>			
\$7	\$174		
		El Rico Habano Torpedo 6 x 54	El Rico Habano Gran Habanero 7.50 x 54
		Cedar Chest of 25	<b>Save \$50<sup>35</sup></b>
		<b>Save \$76<sup>50</sup></b>	
		Single	Cedar Chest of 25
		\$7.00	\$174.40
		Sold out	Sold out
		★★★★☆ 2 Reviews	★★★★☆ 7 Reviews
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		20	

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★  
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**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Belicoso  
6.12 x 54  
Box of 20

Quick View

DEAL

★  
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\$113.95

**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Robusto  
5.50 x 48  
Box of 20

Quick View

★  
Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$30.15

**El Rico Habano**  
Corona Suprema  
6 x 50  
Box of 5

Quick View

★  
Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$150.60

**El Rico Habano**  
Corona Suprema  
6 x 50  
Cedar Chest of 25

Backorder

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| CIGARS | MACHINE MADE | SAMPLERS | 5-PACKS | HUMIDORS | CIGAR ACCESSORIES | PIPES | GIFTS | \$3 CIGARS | DEALS |
|--------|--------------|----------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|

[All Brands](#) > [Cigars](#) > [Handmade Cigars](#) > [Espinosa Cigars](#) > [Espinosa Habano](#)



Average Customer Review:      3.80 10 Reviews





Espinosa cigars are the latest creation from the man who brought you the popular and highly rated 6011 line of cigars. The man who worked with industry rock stars such as with Alec Bradley, Gurkha, Rocky Patel, and Drew Estate; Has put his own John Hancock on this new and exciting blend that quickly skyrocketed in the stogie charts to receive a not too shabby "90" rating!

Handcrafted in Erik Espinosa's new factory in Estelí, the Espinosa Habano is another fantastic offering that is sure to gain your attention. A stunning Nicaraguan Habano wrapper is married to a secret blend of aged Nicaraguan long fillers, that present a symphony of delightfully well balanced flavors that range from roasted coffee, cocoa, and sweet spice. With its firm construction, perfectly balanced flavors, and slow even burn, the Espinosa Habano will fill your senses with pure smoking enjoyment from the first puff to the very last.





### Best Sellers in Espinosa Habano

<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$126.65</div></div>	<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$149.60</div></div>	<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$129.20</div></div>	<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$141.10</div></div>
<div><div>Espinosa Habano</div><div>No. 4</div><div>5.50 x 50</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$22<sup>35</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div>	<div><div>Espinosa Habano</div><div>Toro Box Pressed</div><div>6 x 54</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$26<sup>40</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div>	<div><div>Espinosa Habano</div><div>No. 5</div><div>6 x 52</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$22<sup>80</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div>	<div><div>Espinosa Habano</div><div>No. 8</div><div>6.12 x 58</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$24<sup>90</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div>

### Buy Espinosa Habano

Sort by

Recommended

Showing 5 items

Results per page

20



★★★★☆ 10 Reviews

Showing 5 items

Results per page

20

☰

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★

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\$126.65

Espinosa Habano

No. 4

5.50 x 50

Box of 20

Quick View

★

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\$129.20

Espinosa Habano

No. 5

6 x 52

Box of 20

Quick View

★

Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$141.10

Espinosa Habano

No. 8

6.12 x 58

Box of 20

Quick View

★

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\$149.60

Espinosa Habano

Toro Box-Pressed

6 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

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## Best Sellers in Esteban Carreras Habano

<div><div><div>BEST SELLER DEAL</div><div></div></div><div>\$69.60</div></div>	<div><div><div>Esteban Carreras Habano</div><div>Toro</div><div>5.50 x 54</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$72.40</div><div>Quick View</div></div></div>
<div><div><div>BEST SELLER DEAL</div><div></div></div><div>\$71.45</div></div>	<div><div><div>Esteban Carreras Habano</div><div>Corona EP644</div><div>4 x 54</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$70.55</div><div>Quick View</div></div></div>
<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div><div>\$168.30</div></div>	<div><div><div>Esteban Carreras Habano</div><div>Sixty</div><div>6 x 60</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$29.70</div><div>Sold out</div></div></div>
<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div><div>\$137.70</div></div>	<div><div><div>Esteban Carreras Habano</div><div>Double Corona</div><div>7 x 54</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$24.30</div><div>Sold out</div></div></div>

## Buy Esteban Carreras Habano

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BRAND



**Sold out**

Sold out

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<div>DEAL</div> <div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$121.95</div> <div><b>Romeo y Julieta Pasion</b> Belicoso 6.12 x 54 Box of 20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>DEAL</div> <div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$113.95</div> <div><b>Romeo y Julieta Pasion</b> Robusto 5.50 x 48 Box of 20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>DEAL</div> <div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$69.60</div> <div><b>Esteban Carreras Habano</b> Habano Toro 5.50 x 54 Box of 20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>DEAL</div> <div>Sorry, this image is unavailable</div> <div>\$71.45</div> <div><b>Esteban Carreras Habano</b> Habano Corona EP644 4 x 54 Box of 20</div> <div>Quick View</div>
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JR Auctions

Blending Room

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SAMPLERS

5-PACKS

HUMIDORS

CIGAR ACCESSORIES

PIPES

GIFTS

\$3 CIGARS

DEALS

All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > Gran Habano Cigars

A banner image for Gran Habano Cigars. On the left, the text "Gran Habano Cigars" is written in a large, white, serif font against a dark background. To the right, there is a close-up photograph of several cigars with ornate, gold-colored labels. Above the cigars, the Gran Habano logo is visible, featuring a circular emblem with a building and the text "GRAN HABANO" and "C.A. TABACALERIAS UNION" around it.

Average Customer Review: 4.04 260 Reviews

Handmade in Honduras, Gran Habano Cigars offer outstanding craftsmanship and top-quality flavors at a very affordable price. To appeal to every smokers taste, Guillermo Rico, a third-generation tobacco producer has created several outstanding line extensions. Gran Habano Connecticut is expertly fashioned with well-aged Nicaraguan Habano binder and filler tobaccos, and a silky smooth, golden brown Ecuadorian Connecticut shade wrapper to appeal to those who prefer a mild to medium-bodied smoke. For those who desire a little more kick to their stick, the blend of perfectly aged Nicaraguan, Costa Rican, and Mexican filler tobaccos topped with a stunning Jalapa Nicaraguan Habano wrapper make the Gran Habano Habano an outstanding choice. Seasoned enthusiasts that loves their ligas hearty and very robust will thoroughly relish the beautifully fashioned Gran Habano Corajo. A deep reddish-hued Nicaraguan Corajo leaf paired with long-fillers from Nicaragua, and Costa Rica combine to offer decadent notes of spice, earth, leather, and deep- dark coffee flavors.

GET 20% OFF!

https://www.jrcigars.com/cigars/handmade-cigars/gran-habano-cigars/

9/21/2020  
GENC0048763



The next time you order your favorite premium handmade smokes at JR, you owe to yourself to add at least one of the top-rated varieties of Gran Habano Cigars to your shopping cart.

[Read less](#)

## All brands in Gran Habano Cigars

	<b>Gran Habano #1 Connecticut</b> (104 Reviews)		<b>Gran Habano #3 Habano</b> (99 Reviews)		<b>Gran Habano #5 Corojo</b> (56 Reviews)
	<b>Gran Habano #5 Maduro</b> (1 Review)		<b>Gran Habano Gran Reserva #5</b> No reviews yet		<b>Gran Habano Zulu Zulu Mas Paz</b> No reviews yet
	<b>Gran Habano Blue in Green</b> No reviews yet		<b>Gran Habano La Conquista</b> No reviews yet		

## Best Sellers in Gran Habano Cigars

			
<b>GET 20% OFF!</b> Gran Habano #5 Corojo		<b>Gran Habano #5 Maduro</b>	<b>Gran Habano Blue In Green</b>

Gran Robusto  
6 x 54  
Pack of 5  
**Save \$1455**  
**Quick View**

★★★★☆3 Reviews

Gran Habano #1  
Connecticut  
Gran Robusto  
6 x 54  
Pack of 5  
**Save \$1455**  
**Quick View**

★★★★☆70 Reviews

Imperial  
6 x 60  
Single  
**\$8.60**  
**Quick View**

Churchill  
7 x 48  
Box of 20  
**Save \$3760**  
**Quick View**

Buy Gran Habano Cigars

Sort by  
Recommended

Showing 1 - 20 of 42 items

123

Results per page  
20

☐ Gran Habano


☐ Gran Habano #1  
Connecticut

☐ Gran Habano #3  
Habano


☐ Gran Habano #5  
Corojo

☐ Gran Habano #5  
Maduro


☐ Gran Habano Blue  
In Green




\$20.45



\$20.45



\$150.40



\$37.60

Gran Habano #1  
Connecticut  
Gran Robusto  
6 x 54  
Pack of 5  
**Save \$1455**

Gran Habano #5  
Maduro  
Imperial  
6 x 60

Gran Habano Blue In  
Green  
Churchill  
7 x 48  
Box of 20  
**Save \$3760**

Single

https://www.jrcigars.com/cigars/handmade-cigars/gran-habano-cigars/

9/21/2020  
GENC0048765



WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

☐ Maduro

☐ Natural

STRENGTH

☐ Full

☐ Medium - Full

☐ Mellow - Medium

REGION

☐ Honduras

PACKAGING

☐ Box

☐ Pack

☐ Single

LENGTH

0 7.5

RING

0 70

PRICE

☐ \$123.20

☐ **GET 20% OFF!**

☐ \$9

★★★★☆ 3 Reviews

★★★★☆ 70 Reviews



\$155.20

Gran Habano #5  
Corojo  
Czar  
6 x 66  
Box of 20

Save \$38.80

Quick View



\$39.95

Gran Habano #1  
Connecticut  
Mini  
3.50 x 20  
Pack of 20 (4 Packs of 5)

Save \$21.05

Quick View



Gran Habano #3  
Habano  
Gran Robusto  
6 x 54

Save \$29.60

Box of 20

\$118.40

Quick View

★★★★☆ 22 Reviews



\$118.40

Gran Habano #1  
Connecticut  
Gran Robusto  
6 x 54  
Box of 20

Save \$29.60

Quick View



\$145.60









Gran Habano Blue In  
Green







\$123.20

Gran Habano #5  
Corojo

\$8.60  
Quick View

<div>Pyramid</div> <div>6.12 x 52</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$30<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Robusto</div> <div>5 x 52</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$36<sup>40</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Imperial</div> <div>6 x 60</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$34<sup>40</sup></div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>\$137.60</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Pyramid</div> <div>6.12 x 52</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$30<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>
<div></div> <div>Gran Habano #3</div> <div>Habano Churchill</div> <div>7 x 48</div> <div>Save \$12<sup>86</sup></div> <div>Pack of 5</div> <div>\$22.24</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div></div> <div>Gran Habano</div> <div>Mini #3</div> <div>3.50 x 20</div> <div>Pack of 20 (4 Packs of 5)</div> <div>Save \$21<sup>05</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div></div> <div>Gran Habano Gran</div> <div>Reserva #5</div> <div>2010 Czar</div> <div>6 x 66</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$44<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div></div> <div>Gran Habano #5</div> <div>Corajo Triumph</div> <div>7.50 x 58</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$36<sup>00</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>
<div></div> <div>GET 20% OFF!</div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

★★★★☆ 19 Reviews

			
<b>Gran Habano #5</b> <b>Corajo</b> Lancero 7.50 x 40 Box of 20 <b>Save \$31<sup>60</sup></b>	<b>Gran Habano #5</b> <b>Corajo</b> Robusto 5 x 52 Box of 20 <b>Save \$27<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>Gran Habano #5</b> <b>Maduro</b> Robusto 5 x 52 Box of 20 <b>Save \$28<sup>00</sup></b>	<b>Gran Habano #3</b> <b>Habano</b> Imperiales 6 x 60 Box of 20 <b>Save \$33<sup>60</sup></b>
<a href="#">Quick View</a>	<a href="#">Quick View</a>	<a href="#">Quick View</a>	<a href="#">Quick View</a>
★★★★★ 1 Review			★★★★☆ 17 Reviews
Showing 1 - 20 of 42 items	<div>123</div>	Results per page	<div>20</div>

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DEAL

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

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\$156.80

Gran Habano #5 Maduro

Czar

6 x 66

Box of 20

Quick View

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Gran Habano #1 Connecticut

Gran Robusto

6 x 54

Pack of 5

Quick View

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All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > H.R. Cigars



Average Customer Review: • • • • • 4.43 7 Reviews

HR cigars are the product of Hirochi Robaina, grandson of Alejandro Robaina, the renowned Cuban master blender celebrated for the some of the world's most famous blends, including the amazing Vegas Robaina brand named in his honor. With tough shoes to fill, Hirochi really hit it out of the park with this top-shelf recipe of Nicaraguan tobaccos and Ecuador Habano wrappers. Offered in full-flavored blends that include the HR Blue, and HR Claro, these luxury cigars range from medium to full in body and are all-handcrafted in the true Cuban tradition dating back to 1845 when the Robaina family first began growing their now legendary tobacco.

GET 20% OFF!  
**All brands in H.R. Cigars**





**Hirochi Robaina  
Blue**  
• • • • • (6 Reviews)




**Hirochi Robaina  
Claro**  
No reviews yet




**Hirochi Robaina  
Signature**  
• • • • • (1 Review)

Best Sellers in H.R. Cigars



**BEST SELLER**




**Hirochi Robaina Blue**  
Toro  
6 x 50  
**Save \$39.80**

Box of 20


**\$159.20**

Quick View

★★★★☆ 2 Reviews



**BEST SELLER**




**Hirochi Robaina Blue**  
Toro  
6 x 50

Single


**\$9.95**

Sold out

★★★★☆ 2 Reviews



**BEST SELLER**




**Hirochi Robaina Blue**  
Corona Gorda  
5.50 x 46


Single

**\$7.95**

Sold out



**BEST SELLER**



**Hirochi Robaina Blue**  
Petit Edmundo  
4.50 x 52

Single

**\$8.95**

Sold out

★★★★★ 1 Review

GET 20% OFF!

# Buy H.R. Cigars

Sort by

Recommended

Showing 13 items

Results per page

20

## BRAND

☐ Hirochi Robaina Blue

☐ Hirochi Robaina Signature

## WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

☐ Maduro

## STRENGTH

☐ Full

## REGION

☐ Nicaragua

## PACKAGING









☐ Box




☐ Other

☐ Single

GET 20% OFF!

LENGTH

			
<div><div>Hirochi Robaina Signature Hermoso</div><div>5.12 x 48</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$49.40</div></div>	<div><div>Hirochi Robaina Signature Toro</div><div>6 x 52</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$54.60</div></div>	<div><div>Hirochi Robaina Signature Corona</div><div>5 x 42</div><div>Box of 16</div><div>Save \$34.56</div></div>	<div><div>Hirochi Robaina Signature Belicoso</div><div>5.50 x 52</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$52.05</div></div>
<div>Quick View</div>	<div>Quick View</div>	<div>Quick View</div>	<div>Quick View</div>
			
<div><div>\$197.60</div></div>	<div><div>\$218.40</div></div>	<div><div>\$138.24</div></div>	<div><div>\$207.95</div></div>
<div>\$175.20</div>			<div>\$228.80</div>

<div><div>0</div><div>9.25</div></div> <div>RING</div> <div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div>0</div><div>60</div></div> <div>PRICE</div> <div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div>\$8</div><div>\$228.81</div></div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina Blue</div> <div>Corona Gorda</div> <div>6 x 60</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$43<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina Blue</div> <div>Petit Edmundo</div> <div>4.50 x 52</div> <div>Save \$35<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>\$143.20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina</div> <div>Signature A</div> <div>9.25 x 47</div> <div>Wooden Coffin of 2</div> <div>Save \$9<sup>10</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina</div> <div>Signature Sublime</div> <div>6.50 x 54</div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>Save \$57<sup>20</sup></div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>★★★★★</div> <div>1 Review</div>	<div></div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina Blue</div> <div>Corona Gorda</div> <div>5.50 x 46</div> <div>Save \$31<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>\$127.20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina Blue</div> <div>Toro</div> <div>6 x 50</div> <div>Save \$39<sup>80</sup></div> <div>Box of 20</div> <div>\$159.20</div> <div>Quick View</div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina Blue</div> <div>Corona Gorda</div> <div>5.50 x 46</div> <div>Single</div> <div>\$7.95</div> <div>Sold out</div>	<div>★★★★★</div> <div>2 Reviews</div>	<div></div>	<div>Hirochi Robaina Blue</div> <div>Corona Gorda</div> <div>5.50 x 46</div> <div>Single</div> <div>\$7.95</div> <div>Sold out</div>	<div>★★★★★</div> <div>2 Reviews</div>	<div></div>
---	--	--	---	---	--------------------------------------	--	---	--	--	---------------------------------------	---	--	---------------------------------------	--

GET 20% OFF!



**Hirochi Robaina Blue**  
Petit Edmundo  
4.50 x 52

Single

**\$8.95**

Sold out

★★★★★ 1 Review

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

DEAL

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

\$197.60

Hirochi Robaina Signature

Hermoso

5.12 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

\$218.40

Hirochi Robaina Signature

Toro

6 x 52

Box of 20

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## Best Sellers in Havana Honey

<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Havana Honey</div><div>Spiced Rum</div><div>4.13 x 33</div><div>Save \$370</div></div>	<div><div>10 Packs of 2 (20 total)</div><div>\$14.30</div><div>Backorder</div><div>★★★★★ 1 Review</div></div>
<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Havana Honey</div><div>Classic Cognac</div><div>4.13 x 33</div><div>Save \$370</div></div>	<div><div>10 Packs of 2 (20 total)</div><div>\$14.30</div><div>Backorder</div><div></div></div>
<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Havana Honey</div><div>Sweet Honey</div><div>4.13 x 33</div><div>Save \$370</div></div>	<div><div>10 Packs of 2 (20 total)</div><div>\$14.30</div><div>Sold out</div><div>★★★★★ 1 Review</div></div>
<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Havana Honey</div><div>Sweet Honey</div><div>4.13 x 33</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Pack of 2</div><div>\$1.80</div><div>Backorder</div><div>★★★★★ 1 Review</div></div>

## Buy Havana Honey

Sort by

Recommended









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20

GET 20% OFF!

BRAND

<input type="checkbox"/> Havana Honey	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Mellow	<input type="checkbox"/> Dominican Republic	<input type="checkbox"/> Pack	0	4.13	0	33	\$2	\$14
WRAPPER SHADE										
STRENGTH										
REGION										
PACKAGING										
PRICE										
GET 20% OFF!										
										
Havana Honey Spiced Rum 4.13 x 33 Save \$370	Havana Honey Classic Cognac 4.13 x 33 Save \$370	Havana Honey Sweet Honey 4.13 x 33	Havana Honey Classic Cognac 4.13 x 33	Havana Honey Original 4.13 x 33	Havana Honey Spiced Rum 4.13 x 33	Havana Honey Sweet Honey 4.13 x 33 Save \$370	Havana Honey Original 4.13 x 33 Save \$370			
10 Packs of 2 (20 tc)	10 Packs of 2 (20 tc)	Pack of 2	Pack of 2	Pack of 2	Pack of 2	10 Packs of 2 (20 tc)	10 Packs of 2 (20 tc)			
\$14.30	\$14.30	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	Save \$370	Save \$370			
Backorder	Backorder	Backorder	Backorder	Backorder	Backorder	1 Review	1 Review			
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★			

Sold out

Sold out

★★★★★ 1 Review

★★★★★ 1 Review

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Results per page

20

☰

☐

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DEAL

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\$121.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Bellicoso

6.12 × 54

Box of 20

Quick View

GET 20% OFF!

★

DEAL

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 × 48

Box of 20

Quick View

★



Havana Honeyys

Sweet Honey


4.13 × 33

10 Packs of 2 (20 total)

\$14.30

Sold out

★



Havana Honeyys

Spiced Rum

4.13 × 33

10 Packs of 2 (20 total)

\$14.30

Backorder

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## Best Sellers in Herrera Esteli Habano

<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div><div><div>\$167.25</div><div><div>Herrera Esteli Habano</div><div>Short Corona Gorda</div><div>5.88 x 48</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$367s</div><div>Quick View</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div><div><div>\$190.25</div><div><div>Herrera Esteli Habano</div><div>Lonsdale Deluxe</div><div>6 x 44</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$417s</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆1 Review</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div><div><div>\$198.50</div><div><div>Herrera Esteli Habano</div><div>Toro Especial</div><div>6 x 52</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$4350</div><div>Quick View</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div></div><div><div>\$187.00</div><div><div>Herrera Esteli Habano</div><div>Robusto Grande</div><div>5.25 x 52</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$4100</div><div>Quick View</div></div></div></div>
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## Buy Herrera Esteli Habano

Sort by

Recommended ▾ Showing 6 items

BRAND

GET 20% OFF!

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...

...

☐ Herrera Esteli Habano

**WRAPPER SHADE**  
☐ EMS

**STRENGTH**  
☐ Medium - Full

**REGION**  
☐ Nicaragua

**PACKAGING**  
☐ Box

**LENGTH**  
 0

**RING**  
 0

**PRICE**  
 \$153.3

**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
 Short Corona Gorda  
 5.88 x 48  
 Box of 25  
**Save \$36<sup>75</sup>**

**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
 Lonsdale Deluxe  
 6 x 44  
 Box of 25  
**Save \$41<sup>75</sup>**

**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
 Toro Especial  
 6 x 52  
 Box of 25  
**Save \$43<sup>50</sup>**

**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
 Robusto Grande  
 5.25 x 52  
 Box of 25  
**Save \$41<sup>00</sup>**

**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
 Edicion Limitada  
 Lancero 2019  
 7 x 38  
 Box of 25  
**Save \$33<sup>60</sup>**

**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
 Piramide Fino  
 6 x 52  
 Box of 25  
**Save \$48<sup>75</sup>**

[Quick View](#)

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[Quick View](#)

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★★★★☆ 1 Review

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★★★★★ 1 Review

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DEAL

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\$121.95

**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Belicoso  
6.12 x 54  
Box of 20

Quick View


DEAL

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\$113.95


**Romeo y Julieta Pasion**  
Robusto  
5.50 x 48  
Box of 20

Quick View



**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
Short Corona Gorda  
5.88 x 48  
Box of 25

Quick View



**Herrera Esteli Habano**  
Toro Especial  
6 x 52  
Box of 25


Quick View

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All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > Kristoff Cigars > Kristoff Habano



Average Customer Review:  5.00 1 Review

A line extension the popular Kristoff premium handmade cigar brand, the Habano adds a touch of old-world Cuban style taste to the company's top-rated portfolio. A truly unique blend, the cigar starts with aged Dominican and Nicaraguan long filler tobaccos rolled inside a zesty Brazilian Sumatra binder. An oily, chocolate brown Brazilian Habano wrapper with a pigtail cap really gives this luxury smoke its stunning visual appeal. Kristoff Habano is a slow burning a medium to full-bodied stick with captivating notes of white pepper, spice, caramel, and a long cedar finish. Featured in three popular big ring sizes, Kristoff Habano delivers a BIG mouthful of scrumptious flavor.

GET 20% OFF!



## Best Sellers in Kristoff Habano

BEST SELLER



\$163.95

**Kristoff Habano**  
Robusto  
5.50 x 54  
Box of 20  
**Save \$18.45**  

Quick View

BEST SELLER



\$172.95

**Kristoff Habano**  
Matador  
6.50 x 56  
Box of 20  
**Save \$19.85**  

Sold out

BEST SELLER



\$167.85

**Kristoff Habano**  
Churchill  
6 x 60  
Box of 20  
**Save \$18.75**  

Sold out

★★★★★ 1 Review

## Buy Kristoff Habano

Sort by

Recommended ▴ Showing 3 items

BRAND

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20 ▴

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Results per page

GENC0048790

DEAL

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\$121.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

DEAL

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$163.95

Kristoff Habano

Robusto

5.50 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

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All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > La Aroma de Cuba Cigars > La Aroma de Cuba





Average Customer Review: • • • • • 4.38 138 Reviews



Handcrafted in Nicaragua under the supervision of José "Pepín" García, this flavorful and rich blend is expertly crafted with well-aged Nicaraguan Cuban-seed long fillers, a zesty binder, and a great-looking oily, chocolate-brown Connecticut broadleaf wrapper. The result is a well-balanced medium-to-full-bodied smoke with deep flavors of earth and spice. This one will more than satisfy longtime cigar enthusiasts as well as new smokers who are experimenting with premium handmade cigars.

## Best Sellers in La Aroma de Cuba

<div>BEST SELLER</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$160.95</div><div>La Aroma de Cuba</div><div>El Jefe</div><div>7 x 58</div><div>Box of 24</div><div>Save \$1785</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆10 Reviews</div></div>	<div>BEST SELLER</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$140.40</div><div>La Aroma de Cuba</div><div>Inmensa</div><div>5.75 x 60</div><div>Box of 24</div><div>Save \$1560</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆3 Reviews</div></div>	<div>BEST SELLER</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$156.40</div><div>La Aroma de Cuba</div><div>Double Corona</div><div>7.50 x 52</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$1735</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆3 Reviews</div></div>	<div>BEST SELLER</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$121.50</div><div>La Aroma de Cuba</div><div>Corona</div><div>5.50 x 44</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$1350</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★★2 Reviews</div></div>
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## Buy La Aroma de Cuba

Sort by

Recommended

Showing 12 items

GET 20% OFF!

Results per page

20

...

...



BRAND

☐ La Aroma de Cuba

WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

STRENGTH

☐ Medium - Full

REGION

☐ Nicaragua

PACKAGING

☐ Box

☐ Pack

☐ Single

LENGTH

☐

0

7.5

RING

☐

0

60

PRICE

☐

\$7

\$160.96

GET 20% OFF!



\$160.95

La Aroma de Cuba

El Jefe

7 x 58

Box of 24

Save \$1785

Quick View

★★★★☆10 Reviews



\$140.40

La Aroma de Cuba

Inmensa

5.75 x 60

Box of 24

Save \$1560

Quick View



La Aroma de Cuba

Rothschild

5 x 50

Box of 20

Save \$1000



\$156.40

La Aroma de Cuba

Double Corona

7.50 x 52

Box of 25

Save \$1735

Quick View

★★★★☆3 Reviews



La Aroma de Cuba

Robusto

6 x 52

Box of 25

Save \$1560



\$121.50

La Aroma de Cuba

Corona

5.50 x 44

Box of 25

Save \$1350

Quick View

★★★★★2 Reviews



La Aroma de Cuba

Monarch

5.25 x 54

Box of 24

Save \$1380



Quick View  
\$150.75

★★★★☆ 16 Reviews



\$140.65

La Aroma de Cuba

Belicoso

5.50 x 52

Box of 25

Save \$15.60

Sold out

★★★★☆ 78 Reviews



\$26.40

La Aroma de Cuba

Robusto

5.25 x 54

Pack of 5

Save \$2.35

Sold out

★★★★☆ 2 Reviews



La Aroma de Cuba

Churchill

7 x 50

Single

\$6.70

Sold out

★★★★☆ 16 Reviews



\$7.45

La Aroma de Cuba

El Jefe

7 x 58

Single

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La Aroma de Cuba

Monarch

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La Aroma de Cuba

Inmensa

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Churchill

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## Best Sellers in La Estrella Cubana Habano

<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>\$55.95</div><div>La Estrella Cubana Habano Toro</div><div>6 x 50 Box of 20</div><div>Save \$98s</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆3 Reviews</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>\$57.65</div><div>La Estrella Cubana Habano Churchill</div><div>7 x 48 Box of 20</div><div>Save \$101s</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆5 Reviews</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>\$52.55</div><div>La Estrella Cubana Habano Robusto</div><div>5 x 50 Box of 20</div><div>Save \$92s</div><div>Quick View</div><div>★★★★☆5 Reviews</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>\$59.80</div><div>La Estrella Cubana Habano Robusto Bundle</div><div>5 x 50 Bundle of 20</div><div>Quick View</div></div></div>
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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

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La Estrella Cubana Habano

Toro

6 x 50

Box of 20

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La Estrella Cubana Habano

Churchill

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## Best Sellers in La Galera Habano

BEST SELLER



\$132.95

La Galera Habano

El Lector

6 x 54

Box of 21

Save \$22.45

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BEST SELLER



\$162.50

La Galera Habano

Pilonos

5.25 x 60

Box of 21

Save \$27.13

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Robusto

5.50 x 48

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## Best Sellers in MBombay Habano

<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>MBombay Habano</div><div>Churchill</div><div>7 x 48</div><div>Single</div><div>Quick View</div></div><div><div>\$9.99</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>MBombay Habano</div><div>Belicoso</div><div>5 x 52</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$23<sup>50</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div><div><div>\$201.25</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>MBombay Habano</div><div>Churchill</div><div>7 x 48</div><div>Box of 25</div><div>Save \$25<sup>00</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div><div><div>\$224.75</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div><div><div>MBombay Habano</div><div>Corona</div><div>5.50 x 43</div><div>Box of 20</div><div>Save \$18<sup>75</sup></div><div>Quick View</div></div><div><div>\$168.50</div></div></div>
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MBombay Habano

Belicoso

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MBombay Habano

Corona

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### Best Sellers in Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles

<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$46.95</div></div>	<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$46.95</div></div>	<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$46.95</div></div>	<div><div>BEST SELLER</div><div></div><div>\$46.95</div></div>
<div><div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div><div>Lonsdale</div><div>6.50 x 43</div><div>Bundle of 20</div><div>Save \$44.05</div><div>Sold out</div><div>☆☆☆☆4 Reviews</div></div>	<div><div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div><div>Torpedo</div><div>6 x 52</div><div>Bundle of 20</div><div>Save \$44.05</div><div>Sold out</div><div>☆☆☆☆4 Reviews</div></div>	<div><div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div><div>Churchill</div><div>7.50 x 50</div><div>Bundle of 20</div><div>Save \$44.05</div><div>Sold out</div><div>☆☆☆☆4 Reviews</div></div>	<div><div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div><div>Corona</div><div>5.50 x 43</div><div>Bundle of 20</div><div>Save \$44.05</div><div>Sold out</div><div>☆☆☆☆18 Reviews</div></div>

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### Buy Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles

<div>BRAND</div> <div><div><div></div><div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div></div></div> <div>WRAPPER SHADE</div> <div><div><div></div><div>Natural</div></div></div> <div>STRENGTH</div> <div><div><div></div><div>Medium</div></div></div> <div>REGION</div> <div><div><div></div><div>Dominican Republic</div></div></div> <div>PACKAGING</div> <div><div><div></div><div>Bundle</div></div></div> <div>LENGTH</div> <div><div><div></div><div>0</div></div><div>7.5</div></div> <div>RING</div> <div><div><div></div><div>0</div></div><div>52</div></div>		\$46.95	<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Lonsdale</div> <div>6.50 x 43</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>	<div>Sold out</div>	<div>☆☆☆☆4 Reviews</div>	
		\$46.95	<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Torpedo</div> <div>6 x 52</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>	<div>Sold out</div>	<div>☆☆☆☆4 Reviews</div>	
		\$46.95	<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Churchill</div> <div>7.50 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>	<div>Sold out</div>	<div>☆☆☆☆4 Reviews</div>	
		\$46.95	<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Corona</div> <div>5.50 x 43</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>	<div>Sold out</div>	<div>☆☆☆☆18 Reviews</div>	
<div>GET 20% OFF!</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>						
<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Robusto</div> <div>5 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>						
			<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Double Corona</div> <div>6 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>			
<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Toro</div> <div>6 x 50</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>						
			<div>Mi Cubano Dominican Bundles</div> <div>Corona</div> <div>5.50 x 43</div> <div>Bundle of 20</div> <div>Save \$44.05</div>			



★★★★☆ 16 Reviews

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Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

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Average Customer Review: • • • • • 4.33 39 Reviews

My Father Vegas Cubanas cigars™ are one of the early blends in the now famous My Father Cigar™ portfolio that were originally produced in Don Pepin Garcia's small factory in Miami. Back after years of being off the market, they are now hand rolled in the Garcia family's state of the art facility in Estelí Nicaragua with the original blend of Nicaraguan and binder tobaccos covered by lustrous Corojo Rosado wrapper. Medium bodied and full flavored, The Vegas Cubanas™ is oozing with the rich, spicy, earthy, and nutty, Cuban-style flavors that made My Father™ one of the top-selling brands in the world today. Order a box of 25, and experience how the My Father Cigars™ craze all began!

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## Best Sellers in My Father Vegas Cubanas

<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div></div> <div><div>\$167.75</div><div>My Father Vegas Cubanas Magnates 7.50 x 49 Box of 25 <b>Save \$187s</b> <a href="#">Quick View</a></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div></div> <div><div>\$136.75</div><div>My Father Vegas Cubanas Coronas 5.50 x 44 Box of 25 <b>Save \$152s</b> <a href="#">Quick View</a></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div></div> <div><div>\$157.50</div><div>My Father Vegas Cubanas Invictos 5 x 50 Box of 25 <b>Save \$1750</b> <a href="#">Quick View</a></div></div>	<div><div><div>BEST SELLER</div></div></div> <div><div>\$167.75</div><div>My Father Vegas Cubanas Imperiales 6.12 x 52 Box of 25 <b>Save \$187s</b> <a href="#">Quick View</a></div></div>
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★★★★☆ 9 Reviews

★★★★☆ 6 Reviews

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Belicoso

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Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

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My Father Vegas Cubanas

Imperiales

6.12 x 52

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My Father Vegas Cubanas

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## 4.20


## 10 Reviews



Created by Rafael Nodal owner of the famous Boutique Blends brand, Oliveros Gran Retorno Habano is a top-notch super premium handmade cigar that has quickly caught the attention of discerning aficionados worldwide. To create this Central American beauty, some of the best-aged Nicaraguan binder and filler leaves that money can buy, are rolled inside a gorgeous Ecuadorian Habano wrapper. Decidedly rich and complex, Retorno Habano has a solid medium character that emanates a deep spicy core backed by hearty and dense notes of leather, coffee, cedar, and earth.

## Best Sellers in Oliveros Gran Retorno Habano

BEST SELLER



Oliveros Gran Retorno

Habano

Swing

6 x 50

Save \$61.60


Box of 20

\$92.40

Quick View

★★★★☆ 4 Reviews

BEST SELLER



Oliveros Gran Retorno

Habano

Banjo


4.50 x 52

Box of 20

Save \$63.40

Quick View

BEST SELLER



Oliveros Gran Retorno

Habano

Fiddle

6 x 54


Box of 20

Save \$65.20

Quick View

★★★★★ 2 Reviews

BEST SELLER



Oliveros Gran Retorno

Habano

Swing

6 x 50

Save \$14.90

Pack of 5

\$23.60

Quick View

★★★★☆ 4 Reviews

## Buy Oliveros Gran Retorno Habano

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Box of 20

Quick View

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion  
Robusto  
5.50 x 48  
Box of 20

Quick View

★  
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Oliveros Gran Retorno  
Habano  
Swing  
6 x 50  
Box of 20

Quick View

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\$97.60

Oliveros Gran Retorno  
Habano  
Fiddle  
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# Especial

Average Customer Rating

Review:

★★★★★ 4.00 1 Review



From their small factory in Tamboril, Dominican Republic, the master blenders at PDR have created another top-quality blend. The PDR 1878 Cosecha Especial is a medium to full-bodied masterpiece. A very rare Olor Dominicano binder, along with Dominican Corojo and Nicaraguan Habano filler leaf are skillfully rolled inside a stunning reddish-brown Corojo Ecuador wrapper. Notes of coffee, cocoa, dark chocolate, pepper, and a naturally sweet finish meld perfectly together, creating a smoke that's complex, smooth, and very well balanced.

## Best Sellers in PDR 1878 Cosecha Especial



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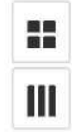
<b>PDR 1878 Cosecha Especial</b> Robusto 5 x 50 Pack of 5 <b>Save \$10<sup>60</sup></b> Backorder	<b>PDR 1878 Cosecha Especial</b> Toro 6 x 52 Pack of 5 <b>Save \$11<sup>85</sup></b> Backorder	<b>PDR 1878 Cosecha Especial</b> Torpedo 6.50 x 52 Pack of 5 <b>Save \$13<sup>90</sup></b> Sold out ★★★★☆ 1 Review
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### BRAND

☐ PDR 1878 Cosecha Especial

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WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

<  >

STRENGTH

☐ Medium - Full

<  >

REGION

☐ Dominican Republic


<  >

PACKAGING

☐ Box

☐ Pack

☐ Single

<  >

LENGTH

☐ 

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RING

☐ 

GET 20% OFF!

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PDR 1878

Cosecha

Especial

Robusto

5 x 50

Pack of 5

Save \$10<sup>60</sup>

PDR 1878

Cosecha

Especial

Toro

6 x 52

Pack of 5

Save \$11<sup>85</sup>

PDR 1878

Cosecha

Especial

Torpedo

6.50 x 52

Pack of 5

Save \$13<sup>90</sup>

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Review

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PRICE	
	
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Average Customer Review:      4.00 20 Reviews



The Habano's "small batch" label is a testament to the brand's dedication to finely curated, boutique quality. To start, the oily, reddish Habano Brazilian wrapper instantaneously grabs your attention and foreshadows the well-balanced, rich flavor on the rise. At first your taste buds indulge in an interesting spice and subtle zest, but soon enough the complimentary notes of leather and cedar at the back of each pull shine through and you're left with a smooth, rounded finish. Noted for its complexity, this Pinar del Río cigar remains steady and smooth throughout. It won't overwhelm the senses.

It also won't be around forever as the PDR Small Batch Reserve Habano was released as a limited edition. Buy yours online today from JR Cigars.

### Best Sellers in PDR Small Batch Habano

BEST SELLER



\$165.95

PDR Small Batch Habano

Double Magnum

6 x 60

Box of 24

Save \$65.17

Sold out

★★★★☆ 20 Reviews

BEST SELLER



\$122.95

PDR Small Batch Habano

Robusto

Box of 24

Save \$46.97

Sold out

BEST SELLER



\$64.95

PDR Small Batch Habano

Grand Toro

6 x 54

Pack of 10

Save \$10.05

Sold out

### Buy PDR Small Batch Habano

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PACKAGING

PRICE	
\$65	\$165.96

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★

DEAL

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\$121.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

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## Best Sellers in Raices Cubananas

BEST SELLER

DEAL



\$29.00

Raices Cubananas

Gordo

6 x 60


Pack of 5

Save \$1075

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★★★★☆126 Reviews

BEST SELLER



\$53.50

Raices Cubananas

Robusto

5.25 x 52


Pack of 10

Save \$3600

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★★★★☆36 Reviews

BEST SELLER



\$7.50

Raices Cubananas

Toro

6 x 54

Single

Sold out

★★★★☆37 Reviews

## Buy Raices Cubananas

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

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Raices Cubanas

Robusto

5.25 x 52

Pack of 10

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Raices Cubanas

Gordo

6 x 60

Pack of 5

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All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > Rosa Cuba Cigars > Rosa Cuba



Average Customer Review:  • 3.85 • 1,217 Reviews



Rosa Cuba handmade cigars are absolute evidence that cigar smokers don't have to sacrifice their wallets in order to please their palates (and vice versa). When shopping online for handmade cigars that are even more enjoyable than they are economical, you'll find everything you want with Rosa Cuba.


Meticulously handmade with mixed-filler black tobaccos, the Rosa Cuba brand of bundled cigars is not only budget-friendly but also unbelievably believable as a luxurious long-filler blend. But it's not...and that's okay, especially when you notice how little you're spending for a whole lot of solid smoking. Finished with a smooth, clean Ecuador Sumatra EMS wrapper leaf with a golden gleam, Rosa Cuba cigars feature a medium-bodied strength profile that highlights a bold yet

balanced flavor in each and every even draw. Packed in bundles of 20 cigars, the Rosa Cuba brand offers an array of sizes sure to satisfy just about any budget-savvy smoker.

[Read less](#)

## Best Sellers in Rosa Cuba

BEST SELLER




\$38.50

**Rosa Cuba**  
6 x 60  
6 x 60  
Bundle of 20  
**Save \$35.50**

[Quick View](#)

★★★★☆ 126 Reviews

BEST SELLER



**Rosa Cuba**  
Angels  
4.50 x 38  
**Save \$22.05**


Bundle of 20

\$26.95

[Quick View](#)

★★★★☆ 126 Reviews

BEST SELLER




\$35.95

**Rosa Cuba**  
Ortiz y Laboy  
6.50 x 52  
Bundle of 20  
**Save \$31.05**

[Backorder](#)

★★★★☆ 73 Reviews

BEST SELLER



\$29.55

**Rosa Cuba**  
Herencia  
4.50 x 52  
Bundle of 20  
**Save \$24.45**

[Quick View](#)

★★★★☆ 133 Reviews

GET 20% OFF!

**Buy Rosa Cuba**



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BRAND

☐ Rosa Cuba

WRAPPER SHADE

☐ EMS

STRENGTH

☐ Medium

REGION

☐ Nicaragua

PACKAGING

☐ Box

☐ Bundle

☐ Pack

LENGTH

☐ 0

☐ 7


RING

☐ 60

PRICE GET 20% OFF

Rosa Cuba

Flor de Rosa



\$38.50


Rosa Cuba

6 x 60

6 x 60

Bundle of 20

Save \$35.50



\$35.95


Rosa Cuba

Angels

4.50 x 38

Bundle of 20

Save \$22.05



\$35.95


Rosa Cuba

Ortiz y Laboy

6.50 x 52

Bundle of 20

Save \$31.05



\$29.55

Rosa Cuba

Herencia

4.50 x 52

Bundle of 20

Save \$24.45

Quick View

Quick View

Quick View

Quick View

126 Reviews

126 Reviews

73 Reviews

133 Reviews

Backorder

Quick View

Quick View

Quick View



\$35.95

Rosa Cuba

Mille Fleurs



\$33.30

Rosa Cuba





Media Noche



\$33.30

Rosa Cuba

Vargas

\$16	\$128.96	5.50 x 44 <b>Save \$24.45</b>	7 x 48 Bundle of 20 <b>Save \$31.05</b>	6.50 x 46 Bundle of 20 <b>Save \$26.70</b>	6.50 x 44 Bundle of 20 <b>Save \$26.70</b>
<div>Bundle of 20 ▾</div> <div>\$29.55</div>					
<div>Quick View</div>					
<div>★★★★☆123 Reviews</div>					
					
<div>Rosa Cuba Angels 15-Pack 4.50 x 38 <b>Save \$483.00</b></div>					
<div>Pack of 15 ▾</div> <div>\$34.50</div>					
<div>Quick View</div>					
<div>★★★★☆126 Reviews</div>					
<div>GET 20% OFF!</div>					
					
<div>Rosa Cuba Ammo Box 6 x 50 <b>Save \$98.55</b></div>					
<div>Ammo Box Of 91 ▾</div> <div>\$128.95</div>					
<div>Sold out</div>					
<div>★★★★☆60 Reviews</div>					
					
<div>Rosa Cuba Plastic Ammo Box 6 x 50 <b>Save \$63.05</b></div>					
<div>Box of 60 ▾</div> <div>\$86.95</div>					
<div>Sold out</div>					
<div>★★★★☆60 Reviews</div>					
					
<div>Rosa Cuba Governors 6.12 x 50 <b>Save \$26.60</b></div>					
<div>Bundle of 20 ▾</div> <div>\$33.40</div>					
<div>Sold out</div>					
<div>★★★★☆74 Reviews</div>					



**Rosa Cuba**  
Governors  
6.12 x 50

Pack of 10

\$28.50

Sold out

★★★★☆ 74 Reviews



**Rosa Cuba**  
Flor de Rosa  
5.50 x 44

Save \$144.00

Pack of 10

\$16.00

Sold out

★★★★☆ 123 Reviews

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Angels

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Bundle of 20

\$26.95

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Rosa Cuba

Ortizy Laboy

6.50 x 52

Bundle of 20

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Rosa Cuba

Flor de Rosa

5.50 x 44

Bundle of 20

\$29.55

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Rosa Cuba

Vargas

6.50 x 44

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All Brands > Cigars > Handmade Cigars > Sabor Cubiche



Average Customer Review: ★★★★★ 3.89 55 Reviews

Handmade in Nicaragua by the famous Corona Cigar Company, the Sabor Cubiche is a mellow smoke fashioned with top-quality long filler leaf and a dark and oily Connecticut wrapper. Packaged in affordable bundles of 20, these premium cigars are infused with bold notes of coffee that compliment and never overpower the blend of aged tobaccos. This beautifully constructed and slow burning cigar provides the palate with a fragrant bouquet of leather, cedar, and rich dark roasted java flavors that will please the palate and delight the senses.

Buy Sabor Cubiche

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**GET 20% OFF!**

DEAL

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\$121.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

DEAL

★

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

★

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\$29.95

Sabor Cubiche

Cafe Con Leche Corona

4 x 40

Bundle of 20

Quick View



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And considering that the Tatuaje Havana VI received a 91 rating, it seems that *Cigar Snob* agrees that this is a cigar to savor.

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## Best Sellers in Tatuaje Havana VI

BEST SELLER




Tatuaje Havana VI  
Gorditos  
5.50 x 56  
**Save \$20<sup>40</sup>**

Box of 24

\$183.60

Quick View

BEST SELLER




Tatuaje Havana VI  
Hermosos  
5.62 x 46  
**Save \$17<sup>40</sup>**

Box of 24

\$156.60

Quick View

BEST SELLER




Tatuaje Havana VI  
Almirantes  
7 x 47

Single

\$8.50

Quick View

BEST SELLER



Tatuaje Havana VI  
Angeles  
4.60 x 42  
**Save \$14<sup>40</sup>**

Box of 24

\$129.60

Quick View

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Sold out



**Tatuaje Havana VI**  
Nobles-Robusto  
5 x 50

Single

\$7.50

Sold out

★★★★☆ 26 Reviews



**Tatuaje Havana VI**  
Artistas-Torpedo  
6.12 x 52  
Single

\$8.00

Sold out

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

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DEAL

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Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

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Tatuaje Havana VI

Gorditos

5.50 x 56

Box of 24

\$183.60

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Tatuaje Havana VI

Hermosos

5.62 x 46

Box of 24

\$156.60

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Best Sellers in The Oscar Habano

BEST SELLER



The Oscar Habano

Robusto

5 x 50

Box of 11

Save \$12<sup>10</sup>


Quick View

★★★★★

1 Review

\$108.90

BEST SELLER



The Oscar Habano

Toro

6 x 52


Box of 11

Save \$13<sup>20</sup>

Quick View

~~\$118.80~~

BEST SELLER



The Oscar Habano

Sixty

6 x 60


Box of 11

Save \$14<sup>30</sup>

Quick View

\$128.70

BEST SELLER



The Oscar Habano

Corona Winter Edition

5.25 x 44

Box of 11

Save \$10<sup>45</sup>

Sold out

\$94.05

Buy The Oscar Habano

Sort by

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☐ The Oscar Habano☐ EMS☐ Full☐ Honduras

Box

Showing 4 items

\$94.05 \$128.71

**GET 20% OFF!**



**Save \$1210**

**Save \$1320**



**Save \$1430**



**Save \$1045**



★★★★★ 1 Review

Sold out

20

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DEAL

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\$121.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Belicoso

6.12 x 54

Box of 20

Quick View

DEAL

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\$113.95

Romeo y Julieta Pasion

Robusto

5.50 x 48

Box of 20

Quick View

Sorry, this image is unavailable

\$108.90

The Oscar Habano

Robusto

5 x 50

Box of 11

Quick View

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\$118.80

The Oscar Habano

Toro

6 x 52

Box of 11

Quick View

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: February 17, 1981

AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: June 6, 1995

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EMPRESA CUBANA DEL TABACO, d.b.a.	:	
CUBATABACO,	:	
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Petitioner,	:	
	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
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GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.,	:	
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Respondent.	:	
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Steven Abbot – Annex CC

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## COHIBA XV

Made with all the inspiration and dedication to quality that has made Cohiba one of the most respected brands in the country, Cohiba XV is a super premium cigar that delivers a distinctive creamy, rich taste that promises heightened levels of refinement. This rich and medium-bodied cigar burns perfectly, with an effortless draw. Cohiba XV is a favorite amongst elite cigar smokers and has been named to Robb Report's prestigious "Best of the Best" list.

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## MEMBER REVIEWS

★★★★★ 4.6 out of 5 stars (94)

SORT BY: Date Added - Newest to Oldest

Most Useful Review 1 people found this review useful

★★★★★ Jim Jr

Written by JamesPoland on February 13, 2013

This cigar is super elegant and creamy. So flavorful with coffee, creamy mocha hints and just a slight spice on finish end. Also on the fuller bodied side. I love this cigar and always keep some in my humidor.

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 550

Written by kestel on October 16, 2012

A great cigar smoked at 69% RH I think it would be alot tastier around 65%!

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 645

Written by David74 on September 29, 2012

These cigars are great but a bit pricey.

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 550

Written by David74 on September 5, 2012

These are great cigars. But they are so expensive.

★★★★★ Review for X-V 645

Written by quo155 on October 18, 2010

I give this fine cigar a perfect rating. I love this cigar. The flavor is outstanding and the ash is great. The (to me) earthy tones in this smoke come in full flavor...most of the time. This is a must have cigar for anyone.

★★★★★ Review for X-V 550

Written by quo155 on July 7, 2010

Awesome stick! Thanks to GC, I was able to enjoy my first for free at a "tasting" a few years back in DFW. I now smoke these on occasion...as they are well put together and I rate it very high!

★★★★★ Review for X-V 550

Written by bellfy11 on April 18, 2010

My favorite Cohiba to date. I had absolutely no problems with this cigar, it was perfect.

★★★★★ Review for X-V 652

Written by CHAONE on April 10, 2010

One of the finest cigars out there. this one and its little brother the 550 are the best in Cohibas line. Whenever I find a real deal on the XV I stick a crowbar in my wallet and load up (It's nice to be single!) I have one (out of 5) humodor just for Cohibas. I try to keep it full and also have a couple of spare boxes stored whith the ones in glass tubes. One out of the 5 cigars I smoke a day is a XV. I hope General stops the Cohiba line here, at least for a while.

★★★★★ Review for X-V 550

Written by CHAONE on April 10, 2010

This is a "must have" in my Cohiba only humidor. I am sure this one and its brother, the 652 are the best cigars in Cohibas line. I shop for deals and always have plenty of these in stock. I smoke around 5 cigars a day and an XV is usually one of them.

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 550

Written by Browndog on March 22, 2009

Another one of the three surprise cigars from General that came with the Cohiba 3 cigar case. I enjoyed this cigar. It has an attractive medium brown wrapper and exhibited excellent construction, a slow burn and a nice ash. Nice, but to my taste not as good as the Cohiba Black.



#### BRANDS

- ☐ Brioso
- ☐ CAO
- ☒ Cohiba (8)
- ☐ Don Tomás
- ☐ Dunhill
- ☐ El Rico Habano
- ☐ Excalibur
- ☐ Foundry
- ☐ Helix
- ☐ Hoyo de Monterrey
- ☐ La Gloria Cubana

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Get in on the discussion.



## MEMBER REVIEWS

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 3.8 out of 5 stars (456)

SORT BY: Date Added - Newest to Oldest

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Review for Toro

Written by Anonymous user on February 7, 2013  
love them

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ Review for Robusto

Written by Aamante on June 13, 2012  
I fine cigar, typically starts off with a myriad of flavors but evens out quickly and maintains for the remainder. Certainly not as oily as its Cuban counterpart but it still has a dedicated spot in my humidor.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Review for Toro

Written by jgonzo7504 on March 9, 2012  
Love this cigar, always take two with me to the golf course!

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ Review for Robusto Fino

Written by TriMarkC on January 10, 2012  
I've had several of these over the year (2011), and they have consistently had a "plastic" taste to me. I'm now leary of Cohibas.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ Review for Churchill

Written by Browndog on May 29, 2010  
A benchmark cigar. Not as complex as some newer blends. The definition of premium though when it comes to construction, burn, draw, ash, consistency, etc.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Review for Robusto

Written by CHAONE on April 10, 2010  
A good all around cigar. It's perfect with my morning coffee or driving down the road. I always remove the band before lighting up for the simple reason that as soon as some people see a I'm smoking a Cohiba they want to bum one. Most are too cheap to buy one, but they don't mind smoking mine. I give away enough to people I like or just want to educate, but one must draw the line. I also don't loan out my Mont Blanc pens!

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Review for Crystal Corona

Written by CHAONE on April 10, 2010  
I smoke a lot of Cohibas. This box was given to me and I am pleased with it. I found the draw to be hard until about 1/2 way down, then it lived up to its name. I do like the glass tubes. I can throw a couple in the tackle box or the shooting bag and they are still perfect when I want one, no matter how long they have been in there.

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ Review for Corona Especial

Written by 2012dude on December 30, 2009

Rough tasting. The burn was not consistent. I received a box of 25 cigars from the smoke shop in my town. loose tobacco. still aromatic. rough on the palate.

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ Review for Toro

Written by tobacco catracho on May 24, 2009

This was gifted to me from my boss, for Christmas, in a travel humidor set that came out last winter. I kept it in 65% humidity in cello all that time. I don't need to waste much time. This cigar reminded me of Villar y Villar Toro's you can buy a box for \$30.00. It not an expensive cigar. It was my first Cohiba, so I must admit that it was a bit of a let down for me. I typically don't go for this flavor profile. It is ever so slightly nutty. The flavor profile stays the same throughout, not very complex. The burn was very good, but the ash was loose and fluffy. It fell right off at every inch. It also looked like it wasn't packed very well. Cigar General, I love you, but I can't say this cigar was much better than cheaper cigars with the same profile. It is smoother than the Villar Y Villar, but tastes too much like it.

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ Review for Churchill

Written by chrisld on March 25, 2009

This is a great cigar but the price is just to much. I have found cigars cheaper that are just as good. I would love this cigar if it were priced right.



## MEMBER REVIEWS

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5 stars (94)

SORT BY: Date Added - Newest to Oldest

Most Useful Review 1 people found this review useful

★★★★★ Jim Jr

Written by JamesPoland on February 13, 2013

This cigar is super elegant and creamy. So flavorful with coffee, creamy mocha hints and just a slight spice on finish end. Also on the fuller bodied side. I love this cigar and always keep some in my humidor.

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 550

Written by kestel on October 16, 2012

A great cigar smoked at 69% RH I think it would be alot tastier around 65%!

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 645

Written by David74 on September 29, 2012

These cigars are great but a bit pricey.

★★★★☆ Review for X-V 550

Written by David74 on September 5, 2012

These are great cigars. But they are so expensive.

★★★★★ Review for X-V 645

Written by quo155 on October 18, 2010

I give this fine cigar a perfect rating. I love this cigar. The flavor is outstanding and the ash is great. The (to me) earthy tones in this smoke come in full flavor...most of the time. This is a must have cigar for anyone.

★★★★★ Review for X-V 550

Written by quo155 on July 7, 2010

Awesome stick! Thanks to GC, I was able to enjoy my first for free at a "tasting" a few years back in DFW. I now smoke these on occasion...as they are well put together and I rate it very high!

★★★★★ Review for X-V 550

Written by bellfy11 on April 18, 2010

My favorite Cohiba to date. I had absolutely no problems with this cigar, it was perfect.



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★★★★☆ 3.8 out of 5 stars (456)

SORT BY: 

Date Added - Newest to Oldest

★★★★☆ Review for Toro

Written by Anonymous user on February 7, 2013  
love them

★★★★☆ Review for Robusto

Written by Aamante on June 13, 2012

I fine cigar, typically starts off with a myriad of flavors but evens out quickly and maintains for the remainder. Certainly not as oily as its Cuban counterpart but it still has a dedicated spot in my humidor.

★★★★☆ Review for Toro

Written by jgonzo7504 on March 9, 2012

Love this cigar, always take two with me to the golf course!

★★★★☆ Review for Robusto Fino

Written by TriMarkC on January 10, 2012

I've had several of these over the year (2011), and they have consistently had a "plastic" taste to me. I'm now leary of Cohibas.

★★★★☆ Review for Churchill

Written by Browndog on May 29, 2010

A benchmark cigar. Not as complex as some newer blends. The definition of premium though when it comes to construction, burn, draw, ash, consistency, etc.

---

★★★★★ Review for Robusto

Written by CHAONE on April 10, 2010

A good all around cigar. It's perfect with my morning coffee or driving down the road. I always remove the band before lighting up for the simple reason that as soon as some people see a I'm smoking a Cohiba they want to bum one. Most are too cheap to buy one, but they don't mind smoking mine. I give away enough to people I like or just want to educate, but one must draw the line. I also don't loan out my Mont Blanc pens!

---

★★★★★ Review for Crystal Corona

Written by CHAONE on April 10, 2010

I smoke a lot of Cohibas. This box was given to me and I am pleased with it. I found the draw to be hard until about 1/2 way down, then it lived up to its name. I do like the glass tubes. I can throw a couple in the tackle box or the shooting bag and they are still perfect when I want one, no matter how long they have been in there.

---

★★★★☆ Review for Corona Especial

Written by 2012dude on December 30, 2009

Rough tasting. The burn was not consistent. I received a box of 25 cigars from the smoke shop in my town. loose tobacco. still aromatic. rough on the palate.

---

★★★★☆ Review for Toro

Written by tobacco catracho on May 24, 2009

This was gifted to me from my boss, for Christmas, in a travel humidor set that came out last winter. I kept it in 65% humidity in cello all that time. I don't need to waste much time. This cigar reminded me of Villar y Villar Toro's you can buy a box for \$30.00. It not an expensive cigar. It was my first Cohiba, so I must admit that it was a bit of a let down for me. I typically don't go for this flavor profile. It is ever so slightly nutty. The flavor profile stays the same throughout, not very complex. The burn was very good, but the ash was loose and fluffy. It fell right off at every inch. It also looked like it wasn't packed very well. Cigar General, I love you, but I can't say this cigar was much better than cheaper cigars with the same profile. It is smoother than the Villar Y Villar, but tastes too much like it.

---

★★★★☆ Review for Churchill

Written by chrissid on March 25, 2009

This is a great cigar but the price is just to much. I have found cigars cheaper that are just as good. I would love this cigar if it were priced right.

[1 \(products/cohiba/cohiba/?start=0#thereviews\)](#)   [2 \(products/cohiba/cohiba/?start=10#thereviews\)](#)   [3 \(products/cohiba/cohiba/?start=20#thereviews\)](#)   [4 \(products/cohiba/cohiba/?start=30#thereviews\)](#)   [5 \(products/cohiba/cohiba/?start=40#thereviews\)](#)   ...   [46 \(products/cohiba/cohiba/?start=450#thereviews\)](#)

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For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: February 17, 1981

AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: June 6, 1995

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Steven Abbot – Annex DD



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## Cuban Cigar Inventory

By David Savona (/blogs/author/id/7)

Posted: Feb 27, 2015 11:00am ET

Twice: Share {295}

Montecristos of all sizes, Romeo y Julietas galore and Cohiba Maduros for everyone you've ever known. Havana's cigar shops are full of cigars on this trip.

So far I've been to seven Casa del Habano cigar stores, including the standouts at the Meliá Habana Hotel, Quinta Avenida, Club Habana and the Habana Libre Hotel. Rumors of a cigar shortage have been overblown, but there's certainly things you can and cannot get.

As Gordon Mott pointed out in a news story yesterday (<http://www.cigaraficionado.com/webfeatures/show/id/2013-14-Cuban-Tobacco-Harvest-May-Be-Worst-in-20-Years-18017>), there are no Behikes on the shelves here. (There may be a few behind the counter held for dear customers, common practice in any cigar shop, but unlike last year you won't walk into a Cuban cigar store and see stacks of that distinctive black, glossy outer box.) I had heard they were impossible to find, but I've asked on every stop and have received the same, weary answer. No Behike. Some say it has been months since they've seen one, others, like the shop at the Habana Libre, just ran out.

Punch Punch cigars seem a little short, and you seldom see many H. Upmann Sir Winstons or Ramon Allones Gigantes. But aside from those cigars, you can do very well shopping here indeed.

If you've shopped for cigars in Cuba, you know that prices are fixed, so the price in one shop will be the same price as another. So why go to different shops? Selection varies from store to store. Here are a few notes from each stop:

### Club Habana

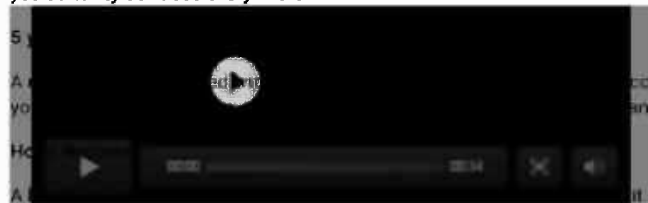
A store that's always a bit on the quiet side, and one that always seems to have something of interest that you won't find anywhere else. I noticed many boxes stamped 2011, including Partagás Serie D No. 4s (153.75 CUC) and Cohiba Siglo VI (490 CUC). Most shops here are full of cigars marked 2014, and some 2013. I have yet to see one stamped 2015. When you go, spend 5 CUC on the house cigar, the legendary Monsdale (/webfeatures/show/id/17543), always pay extra attention to the boxes in the far left corner of the humidor. You typically find something with some age lurking there.

### Habana Libre

I know the Habana Libre is not as well known as some of the legendary shops here like Club Habana and Quinta Avenida. But from all my visits over the past few years this store is certainly getting attention from the Cuban cigar industry. It's a massive store, and it gets great inventory. It had dozens of boxes of the new Añejado cigars (<http://www.cigaraficionado.com/webfeatures/show/id/Habanos-SA-Predicts-Big-US-Sales-Shows-2015-Cigars-18012>) in stock on my visit, far more than any other shop here, and also plenty of all three 2014 Edición Limitadas, including the Cohiba, the most difficult of the trio to find. It even had a box of Punch Serie d'Oro No. 2 EL 2013 cigars in the cabinet dedicated to single cigar sales—quite a find. They also had several boxes of Romeo y Julieta Cazadores, rustic smokes that I enjoy quite a bit.

### Meliá Habana

A favorite of *Cigar Aficionado's*, this shop was devoid of any 2014 EL cigars but had otherwise good stocks with a particularly strong representation of Bolivar. They had Bolivar Belicoso Fino in both dress box and cabinets (191.25 CUCs for each, and the cabinet is the far better buy). This shop always seems to have cabinets of 50, and on this trip I saw Partagás Shorts (202.50 CUC, 50-count) and Lusitanias (567.50 CUC, 50-count). They also had Trinidad Fundadores (261.60 CUC), which you certainly don't see everywhere.



decorated, with an attentive, knowledgeable staff. Say hello to the great Carlos Robaina while you're there. I saw H. Upmann Sir Winstons (331.25 CUC) and it had plenty of Diplomaticos No. 2s (187.50 CUC).

At the end of the trip, I sometimes has something you don't see in other places. In this case it was the new Partagás Serie D No. 6 (5.40 CUC for a single, which I bought). The squat little cigar has a good kick, and was quite a pleasant way to conclude an afternoon in Cuba.

### Meliá Cohiba

A shop that's good for spot buying, with a spacious smoking area to linger and work or chat.



I still have plenty more to see and do here before tonight's gala dinner concluding the Festival. And it's 9:30 a.m. as I write this—time to light up my first cigar of the day.



---

**Robert Peloquin** Cookshire, Quebec, Canada, February 27, 2015 1:26pm ET

Man you have a great job!!

**David Savona** February 27, 2015 4:53pm ET

Thank you Robert, that I don't deny. Readers like you make my job even better. Thanks for the comment.

**kerry joseph** Rio Comprido, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, February 27, 2015 6:29pm ET

I always look forward to your informative articles.

**Gerald Snel** March 3, 2015 10:54pm ET

Man would I love to be your sidekick on some of your trips. I'm retired Navy and I was able to sample some cubans while stationed overseas. If they are unable to keep inventory in their local market, what's going to happen when the gates up for the USA.

**David Savona** March 4, 2015 10:52pm ET

Kerry, thanks for the comment.

**David Savona** March 4, 2015 10:53pm ET

Gerald, thanks for your service. Good question about supplying the United States. It's a tall order. But it's certainly on their minds.

**kerry joseph** Rio Comprido, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, March 10, 2015 10:33am ET

David, have you tried the Bolivar Redentor-exclusivo Brasil?

If yes, what are your thoughts on it?

**David Savona** March 10, 2015 8:52pm ET

Kerry, yes I have. I thought it was very good. Love the shape, and enjoyed the cigar quite a bit. It's a nice RE.

**Nshan Muradyan** Coats, North Carolina, United States, July 20, 2015 7:41am ET

Dear David

The Cuban Flag will be raised today at the Cuban Embassy in DC for the first time in 54 years. When will Cuban cigars be available in the US market? I don't mean being able to bring back \$100 worth of Cuban tobacco to the US, but I would like to walk in to my local cigar shop and be able to purchase Cuban cigars. Would you know when this will happen? Please let me know. Thank you so much.

**Nshan Muradyan** Coats, North Carolina, United States, July 20, 2015 7:51am ET

Dear David

The Cuban Flag will be raised today at the Cuban Embassy in DC for the first time in 54 years. When will Cuban cigars be available in the US market? I don't mean being able to bring back \$100 worth of Cuban tobacco to the US, but I would like to walk in to my local cigar shop and be able to purchase Cuban cigars. Would you know when this will happen? Please let me know. Thank you so much.

**David Savona** July 20, 2015 8:15am ET

This is an exciting time, and things are certainly moving toward in that direction, but much remains to be done before the embargo is lifted. I wish I had an answer for you, but there is no timetable. Only Congress can end the embargo.

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## The World of Cuban Cigars

By Gordon Mott (/author/show/id/114)

From Hugh Jackman, March/April 2015 (/issue/show/date/2015-04-01)



A survey of leading cigar stores around the world, such as the glorious Casa del Habano in Dubai (above) reveals trends in the Cuban cigar marketplace.

### Cigar Aficionado surveys Cuban cigar retailers from around the world

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Robustos. Partagás. Cohiba Robustos Supremos or Partagás Gran Reservas. Cohiba Behike 56. Those were the most common answers from Cuban cigar retailers around the world in a recent 10-question survey they were asked to fill out by *Cigar Aficionado* earlier this year. In the end, a clear picture emerged from the retailers and distributors we surveyed. In sum, there may never be a better time to buy Cuban cigars, especially for those buying in dollars, as the currency is stronger than it has been in a decade.

Any cigar smoker who is lucky enough to travel the world knows that one of the treats is smoking Cuban cigars. And even though the U.S. government is apparently going to loosen regulations on travel to Cuba, you are still bound by tight restrictions on what you can bring home. In the rest of the world, the Cuban government has made finding its iconic product easy by creating a network of more than 140 Casas del Habano, all supplied by authorized distributors in most countries and regions. They can only sell Cuban cigars in those franchises, and from our experience, the government has done a good job of insisting on the quality of their shops. In addition to the Casas, we also touched base with several traditional tobacconists who we trust, and have always had the highest quality cigars in their inventory.

The questions were simple: Best-selling size, best-selling brand, are single or box sales most common, best release of 2014, most exciting prospective 2015 release, inventory status, highest-priced cigar, cheapest cigar, average price and an overall impression about Cuban cigar quality.

With a couple of exceptions, robustos are the most popular size in every Casa del Habano in the world. The exceptions were petit cazadores in France, pirámides in Grand Cayman and long, big ring gauge cigars in Hamburg, Germany. The majority of the answers reflect nearly the same size preferences of American smokers, a fact confirmed in most *Cigar Insider* surveys over the last 20 years. It's pretty simple: people don't have the time to smoke bigger cigars every day, and, maybe just as important, a robusto is often a bit more affordable than say, a double corona.

The best selling-brand in the Cuban cigar retail world is Partagás, but only by a slim margin. Cohiba was mentioned as the most popular brand in Dubai, Barbados and Hong Kong, and was the second most popular brand in most shops. Montecristo earned mentions in the United Kingdom, Grand Cayman and in Mexico.

There was no clear result on sales of single cigars compared to boxes. If you could make any judgment, it would be that in higher tax markets such as Canada, singles are preferred. But given the high-end clientele of most Casas del Habano, box sales remain common everywhere.

The clear winner for the best new release of 2014 was the Cohiba Robusto Supremo Edición Limitada 2014, a 58 ring gauge smoke. In our reporting, as the cigar was released late in the year, there was no question that Habanos had hit a home run. Retailers confirmed that assessment. Second place went to the Partagás Lusitania Gran Reserva. The other Edición Limitadas from 2014 were complimented as well: several Casas mentioned the Partagás Selección Privada EL, and the Casa del Habano in Montreal said the best-selling new release was the Bolívar Super Corona EL.

Everyone had a different opinion about the most exciting upcoming release for this year, including H. Upmann Magnum 56 EL 2015, Partagás Serie D No. 6, Montecristo Churchill Añejado, Partagás 170 Aniversario, Romeo y Julieta Wide Churchill Gran Reserva, Hunters & Frankau 225th Anniversary, Juan López Don Juan Edición Regional Benelux, and Montecristo 80th Aniversario. As with all new releases, we're not even sure they will appear in 2015, and Habanos has yet to confirm all the cigars.

The other good news for Cuban cigar buyers is that nearly all the retailers reported their stocks were nearly complete as we went to press, with all major brands and sizes in stock. The only exception was in Dubai. Otherwise, every shop reported nearly full lineups of the major brands. For most shops the most expensive regular production cigar is the Cohiba Behike BHK 56. The most expensive current production cigar reported was the limited edition Partagás Lusitania Gran Reserva, at \$148 per stick in Canada. The cheapest cigars we found were all value brands, such as a José L. Piedra for \$2.30 in France, and machine-made brands. Other low-end brands that were mentioned included Guantanamera and Quintero. In Hong Kong, the lowest-priced cigar brand is the new incarnation of Vegueros.

One London retailer who sells vintage cigars took the opportunity to provide an answer to a question not addressed in the survey—his most expensive vintage cigar. A single 1986 Davidoff Aniversario No. 1 could be had for a mere \$2,268.

The average price for a sale seems to be \$10 to \$15. The shops in the United Kingdom, a high tax market, were significantly higher, with average prices between \$22 and \$30.

The final question—Cuban quality—should reassure every cigar smoker on earth. In general, every retailer said the quality of Cuban cigars today is good to excellent. Carlos Lander of the Casa del Habano in Barbados, says "I can honestly say that the dark years (the late '90s) are gone, and today a Habano is the best cigar that money can buy." Others were not quite as positive. Several of them mentioned occasional draw problems. "Some brands are decreasing in quality," one distributor said, "but the ones that are great, are great."

The overall takeaway from this survey is pretty simple: in markets outside the United States in 2015, you are going to find ample inventories of Cuban cigars, and Cuban cigar retailers are generally pleased with what they are selling. And, while Cuban cigars are expensive, today's strong U.S. dollar is making them a little more affordable.



A survey of leading cigar stores around the world, such as the glorious Casa del Habano in Dubai (above) reveals trends in the Cuban cigar marketplace.

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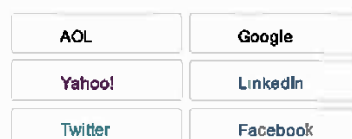
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## The Good and the Bad

By James Suckling (/author/show/id/8)

From "24", Jan/Feb 2006 (/issue/show/date/2006-02-01)

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The sub-director of quality at the H. Upmann factory in Havana was not happy. I was walking down the aisle of one of the rolling rooms of his well-lit factory, where about three dozen student cigar rollers were working. I stopped in front of one, grabbed a petit corona off his bench and declared in bad Spanish that the cigar would not draw.

If I had called his sister a whore, I probably would not have had a more furious reaction. "What are you talking about?" he asked, with a look of shock and disgust. He was holding back his rage. I thought he was going to take a swing at me and I began looking which way I should duck, or how I might block his punch.

"Look at this *mareva*," I said, pinching the four-inch cigar about midway with my thumb and index finger. It's the usual cigar that trainees make during their first three or four months of rolling. "There's a knot here. It won't draw."

I handed the sub-director the cigar. He held it in his hand and thought for a moment and then gave it back to me. "Smoke it," he said defiantly.

"It won't draw," I said. I took the cigar, bit the end off it and started to draw on it. The sub-director took his disposable lighter and placed it at the end of my defective smoke. It drew perfectly! I was a complete *cabrón*—or ass as they say in Cuban. I told him that I just said that so I could try a fresh cigar, but we both knew that I had made a complete ass out of myself. And I was sorry.

But my intentions were good. Too many bad Cuban cigars have been made in the recent past. I am not saying that the days of plugged cigars are over for Cuban smokers, but the situation is a hell of a lot better. It wasn't that long ago that you would encounter 10 out of 25 cigars in a box of Cubans that were completely unsmokable.

The working conditions at the new Upmann factory, which was opened in November 2003, illustrate why cigar production is improving so quickly. Workers just seem more conscious and disciplined than in the past.

I remember visiting the old Upmann factory, located behind the Partagas factory in central Havana, a few years back, and thinking that the rolling rooms resembled more of a family block party than the key part of an industrial complex. The music was blaring, people were dancing in the aisles and hardly anyone was paying attention to their work. It was hardly the environment to make serious cigars.

Of course, I didn't begrudge them. Any joy in their lives would obviously be a good thing considering their difficult living conditions. I know some workers in Havana who spend three or four hours each day getting to work on the dilapidated public transportation system. Food, electricity and hot water can be scarce at the best of times. But workers in a factory—even in Cuba—can be happy, content and hard-working if they are given the opportunity.

And that's what I have seen at the Upmann factory on recent occasions as well as in the new La Corona factory that opened last year. Workers looked happy. All the work areas—whether leaf selection, blending or rolling—were well lit, clean and organized. The plants had good food in their cafeterias and readily available medical care. The employees were better off working in the factory than going home and dealing with all the problems of day-to-day life in Cuba.

If you get the chance to smoke a recently produced Montecristo Edmundo, you'll better understand what I mean. When the large cigar (52 ring gauge by about 5 3/8 inches) was released a couple of years ago, it was a very good quality smoke, but it seemed to lack some character. The Upmann factory makes a large percentage of the Edmundo production, and the smokes coming out of the factory are much, much better than the initial release. Officials at the factory would not admit to any changes in the production, but I think it comes down to better craftsmanship. Everybody is working better in these new factories, from tobacco sorter to roller to box finisher.

"Better conditions for the workers means better conditions for production," explained Manuel Romero, head of production at

H. Upmann. He said that the plant had close to 200 rollers, who made just over four million cigars a year. "It is really important for people to feel better in their work here, so that they can work better and make better cigars."

Perhaps even a better example is the Montecristo Maravilla, the new release of Colección Habanos, which comes in a cedar box that resembles a book and contains 20 cigars. The cigar is a mouthful, to say the least, measuring 7 1/8 inches by 55 ring gauge, and although it sounds like too much for many smokers, it delivers wonderful refined character with honey, cedar and almost nutty flavors that only a great Montecristo delivers. Only 500 boxes were produced.

The Cubans continue to talk about a factory in the future that will produce only specialty cigars, from tiny-production humidores to limited editions, just like the Maravilla. This would not only be a public relations triumph, it would also be a great way to assure the quality of such cigars made in Cuba. I met with Buenaventura Jiménez Sánchez-Cañete, the new Spanish head of Habanos S.A., the global distribution company for Cuban cigars, and he confirmed that specialty cigars were an integral part of the future development of Habanos.

He would not be drawn out on what all of next year's special issues will be, but he hinted at a new size of Cohiba. The annual cigar festival in Havana will be held at the end of February, and among the celebrations will be a special cigar to commemorate the 40th birthday of the Cohiba. Word is that it's a big cigar that has never been produced before, and it will be sold for a short time. It won't be sold in limited-edition humidores, which was done for past Cohiba anniversaries.

Cuban cigar lovers might find it easier to buy boxes of this year's release of the *selección limitada*—the popular line of smokes with aged dark wrappers. The sizes change each year and are produced in limited quantities, usually about 10,000 sticks of each model. Three sizes, or *vitolas*, will be available to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the *selección limitada* concept. They will be a re-release of some of the most popular models: Montecristo Robusto, Cohiba Piramide and Partagas Serie D No. 3.

At one time, the best place to buy selección limitadas was in Havana, but this is no longer the case. Prices have gone through the roof in cigar shops throughout the island due to increases in 2004 that totaled close to 30 percent as well as exchange rate and commission charges. In addition, tourists now have to pay for everything in what the Cubans call convertible pesos, which adds another 15 to 25 percent on everything from hotel rooms to smokes. For instance, if someone buys a box of 25 Cohiba Lanceros for 355 pesos with dollars, he first has to convert them into pesos at about 95 centavos to the dollar and then pay a 20 percent commission. Using a credit card is slightly less expensive, but there's still an 11 percent commission.

Not surprisingly, the handful of key cigar shops I visited in the capital were not selling many boxes of cigars. Their business is down close to 50 percent. Some say the domestic market has shrunk from 11 million cigars a year to only 5 million or 6 million. "People just aren't buying," said one tobacco shop assistant. "Not only do we have less people coming into the shops, those that do buy a lot less."

The shops' selection of cigars, however, was very good, with just about everything available, and the dozens of boxes I opened of current-production smokes looked very high quality. I wonder, however, why anyone from Europe would purchase large quantities of Cuban cigars on the island, other than having the pleasurable experience of buying there. Prices are not much different in Spain and other parts of Europe, so who wants to bother buying smokes in Cuba and having the hassle of bringing them back—especially with how difficult Cuban customs officers at the airports can be as well as their counterparts in some European countries?

At least visitors can still smoke just about anywhere they please on the island. Antismoking regulations went into effect in Cuba last February and there was lots of talk of no smoking in public places in what is in effect a giant natural humididor for cigars. I was in Havana a few weeks later and noticed nonsmoking signs and nonsmoking areas. I was even asked to put out my cigar a few times in bars and restaurants. On my last trip in November, however, nobody seemed to care. The antismoking signs and attitudes were gone, although a few restaurants continued to have nonsmoking sections.

Just to cheer up the sub-director after my stupidity, I asked him if smoking was allowed in the factory considering the new antismoking regulations. He started laughing very loudly. "If you can't smoke here, then where can you smoke?" he said. With that, I continued to enjoy my perfectly rolled petit corona.



Angelo Cavalli

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## Habanos Announces 4 Percent Growth in 2015

By Gordon Mott (/author/show/id/114)

Posted February 29, 2016



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Habanos S.A. Cuba's cigar company, reported today that revenues reached \$428 million, an increase of 4 percent over 2014. Leopoldo Cintra Gonzalez, the new commercial vice president of Habanos, said the growth showed the strength of the country's brands in the global marketplace.

The announcement was made at the opening press conference of the 18th Festival del Habanos, held every year in Havana. More than 2,000 persons (and 220 international press) are expected to attend the weeklong event, which this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the launch of Cohiba, Cuba's most prestigious brand.

The week events include a large welcome cocktail party, which took place last night at the Tobacco and Wood warehouse on Havana's waterfront; a dinner Wednesday night in celebration of cigar rollers; and a final gala dinner on Friday to fete Cohiba. Attendees will have the opportunity to travel to Cuba's famed tobacco growing region of Pinar del Río and tour the home factory of Cohiba, the recently renovated El Laguito. There are also seminars and special events throughout the week.

Several new cigars will be previewed during the festival: the Hoyo de Monterrey Reserva 2012, in the brand's famed Epicure No. 2 line; the H. Upmann Magnum 54, the third in the brand's Magnum series; and the Cuaba 20 Aniversario, a large double figurado.

The Habanos official also announced other cigars that are going to soon be added to the Habanos line, including the Cohiba Medio Siglo, the Cohiba Majestuoso 1966, and the Ediciones Limitadas: Montecristo Dantes, Trinidad Topes and a Romeo y Julieta Capuletos. And, the officials revealed that the Cohiba 50th Anniversary cigar would be 7 inches by 60 ring gauge and sold in 50 humidors of 50 cigars each; each humidor is covered in tobacco leaves that have been gilded with 24 karat gold. (Click here to read more on the new cigars.) (<http://www.cigaraficionado.com/webfeatures/show/id/habanos-sa-announces-upcoming-cigar-releases-for-2016-18635>)

During a question-and-answer period, two Habanos officials, Cintra Gonzalez and vice president of development of Habanos S.A. Javier Terrés de Ercilla, acknowledged that the current tobacco growing season 2015/2016 has been difficult with a "drought when it should have rained, and heavy rains when it should have been dried." But they said due to special measures from preparation of the fields, to special seed varieties, they did not feel that the difficulties would adversely affect the quantities of tobacco harvested, nor the quality.

Terrés Ercilla also declined to speculate about how quickly the U.S. market would open for Cuban cigars, or how large a market share Cuban cigars would take once the brands began selling there. "The United States is the largest premium cigar market in the world," Terrés Ercilla said, "but we really can't speculate about things that have not happened, yet." He added that the increase in U.S. tourists coming to Cuba had not had a significant impact on Habanos' cigar sales, but he considered it a positive influence that more Americans were having the opportunity to smoke Cuban cigars, and taking that information back to America.

Habanos also said that its top five markets in 2015, in order, were Spain, France, China, Germany and Switzerland. The company's sales by region were Europe, with 55 percent, the Americas (including Cuba) at 16 percent, Africa and the Middle East represented 15 percent and Asia/Pacific tallied 15 percent. The best selling brands were Cohiba, Montecristo and Romeo y Julieta, and the best selling cigars were the Partagás Serie D No. 4 and Montecristo No. 2.

### See Also:

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

**A Record 4 Million Tourists Visited Cuba in 2016** (/webfeatures/show/id/a-record-4-million-tourists-visited-cuba-in-2016-19157)

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

**Cohiba V. Cohiba** (/webfeatures/show/id/cohiba-v-cohiba-19142)

Thursday, December 22, 2016

**Mexico's New Regional Cigar Arrives** (/webfeatures/show/id/mexicos-new-regional-cigar-arrives-19149)

Friday, December 9, 2016

**Special Cigars Announced for Cuba's Habanos Festival** (/webfeatures/show/id/special-cigars-announced-for-cubas-habanos-festival-19140)

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

**American Airlines Plans Service Cutbacks to Cuba** (/webfeatures/show/id/american-airlines-plans-service-cutbacks-to-cuba-19137)

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## When A Smoke Isn't Just A Smoke

Posted November 15, 2000

1 tweet

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Posted November 15, 2000, 5:30 p.m. e.s.t.

You have good taste. That's all I have to say for you. We asked you to post your 10 favorite Cuban cigars on our Web site, following my column on my 10 favorites, and the results came in at a hellish rate. Interesting stuff too.

For those of you who haven't seen it (where the hell have you been?), here is how you *Cigar Aficionado* Web site devotees voted:

Brand Percent 1. Montecristo No. 2 6.1% 2. Partagas Serie D No. 4 4.8% 3. Hoyo de Monterrey Double Corona 4.6% 4. Partagas Lusitania 4.6% 5. Ramon Allones Specially Selected 4.1% 6. Bolivar Belicoso Fino 3.9% 7. Punch Double Corona 3.9% 8. Cohiba Esplendido 3.7% 9. Cohiba Robusto 3.3% 10. Bolivar Corona Gigante 3.3%

Just to give you a bit more information from what was posted the other week, the runners up were as follows:

Ramon Allones Gigantes (3.1%), Romeo y Julieta Churchill (2.8%), Trinidad Fundadore (2.8%) Hoyo de Monterrey Epicure No. 2 (2.2%), Montecristo "A" (2.2%), Punch Punch (2%), H. Upmann Sir Winston (1.7%), Bolivar Royal Corona (1.5%), Cohiba Siglo IV (1.5%), Punch Churchill (1.3%), Romeo y Julieta Exhibicion No. 4 (1.3%), Partagas 8-9-8 (1.1%), Cohiba Lancero (1.1%), Bolivar Corona (1.1%), Others (32%)

What does all this mean? I can't really make heads or tails out of it, to be honest. The most obvious thing is that cigars will always be a very personal thing. Look at it. No *vitola* (size) or brand dominates the poll. Finding a clear winner is about as easy as following the counting of ballots in Palm Beach County.

The Montecristo No. 2 ranked highest, with 6.1 percent of the vote. That's nothing. I thought it would have received a 20- or 30-percent rating as the No. 1 cigar. I am sure if we asked what is the best car ever made, the most beautiful woman, or the greatest football player, we would have had more of a majority.

What can be said is that Cuban cigar aficionados like big and fat cigars. Strangely, the Cubans and their agents say otherwise. They say the market is going to shorter, 42-ring-gauge smokes such as coronas and petit coronas. "People don't have the time for big smokes," they say. But they are wrong according to our poll. The double corona remains the most popular size, followed by the robusto and then the torpedo. Maybe their reasons for saying otherwise is that they need to flog millions of Monte No. 4s that nobody seems to want to smoke?

Brands don't seem to figure in the equation, either, although Cohiba is very popular despite its high price and inconsistent quality over the last few years. Perhaps everyone still remembers the great Cohiba Robustos and Esplendidos made in the early 1990s? They're not quite up to the same standard these days. The same might be true with Bolivar -- the brand had two cigars in the top 10, a Belicoso Fino and Corona Gigante. They were full-throttle, big-tasting smokes in the early- and mid-1990s. Today, they are much milder, although they remain very good smokes.

And what about all the new brands launched in the last five years by Habanos, the global distribution organization for Cuban cigars? Only Trinidad -- one of my favorite smokes, by the way -- makes it as a blip on the radar screen. The rest went unnoticed, which just about sums up their success in the marketplace.

Now that we know your 10 favorites, let's take it one step further. I would like to know what's the greatest Cuban cigar you have ever smoked? Whether it's a pre-Castro, a Cuban Davidoff or new Monte No. 2, post your choice in the Cuba and Cuban Cigar Forum ([/Cigar/BBS/Bin/bbs/viewTopic%01000000006%01-1%01PostDate%030%02PostTime%030%02Subject%031%02%013%01%01%01%0120%01%01postArticle%01OFF%01%01%01](#)).

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### See Also:

Thursday, September 1, 2016

**[The New Partagás Factory \(/webfeatures/show/id/the-new-partagas-factory-18991\)](#)**

Friday, July 1, 2016

**[Havana's Humidor Heaven \(/webfeatures/show/id/havanas-humidor-heaven-18866\)](#)**

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

**[The Six-Day Cohiba Party \(/webfeatures/show/id/the-six-day-cohiba-party-18781\)](#)**



Monday, May 2, 2016

**Cuba's American Plan** (/webfeatures/show/id/cubas-american-plan-18551)

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

**Abel's Long Journey Home** (/webfeatures/show/id/abels-long-journey-home-18342)

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## Buying Cigars in Cuba

By David Savona (/blogs/author/id/7)

Posted: Mar 16, 2012 12:00am ET



Share { 5 }

When I visit Havana, one of my greatest joys is walking through the humidors of a Casa del Habano and taking a look at the selection of cigars. On my last trip a few weeks ago, I found that many of the shops were in decent supply.

With the (notable) exception of the Montecristo Gran Reserva, which I didn't see on sale anywhere, and Cohiba Behikes, which were hard to find in most stores save for that in the Habana Libre Hotel, there were plenty of good cigars from which to choose.

The 2011 Edición Limitadas were in good supply, including plenty of Cohiba 1966 (they scored 94 points in a recent Cigar Insider; wonderful smokes), plenty of Hoyo de Monterrey Short Hoyo Piramides EL 2011, and Ramon Allones Allones Extras. The regular production new smokes from last year's Festival were also there, such as the Partagas D5s and E2s.

I shot this video inside the humidor of the always superb Casa del Habano at Club Habana. Take a look at the stock in the video below.

There were tons of Montecristos, and a huge amount of one of my favorites, the Montecristo Petit Edmundo, including some 2008 production.

The shop had every size of Cohiba, but the Lanceros and Esplendidos were in short supply. There were also low stocks of Cohiba Maduro Genios and Secretos (no Magicos in stock). There was also a very large number of Cuaba Salomones in stock.

Most of the box codes were from 2009 through 2011, great years for Cuban cigars. I found a few 2007s, including a box of Cohiba Siglo 1s, and even found some older items in the back left corner of the humidor, where the less popular brands such as Rafael Gonzalez are put. (Poor Rafael Gonzalez—never gets any respect. Always flip these boxes over, as you're likely to find one with five or even ten years of age.)

To give you an idea on prices, the Montecristos ranged from 90 cuc for a box of No. 5s up to 190 cuc for the Monte 2. Cohibas were 130 cuc for the Siglo 1 up to 383 cuc for the Siglo 2, 241 cuc for a box of 10, and 475 cuc would get you a gorgeous cabinet of 50 Hoyo Double



2 Comment(S) ▼

Dave, love the videos and stories about the cigar stores and the supplies of smokes available in Cuba. There has to be nothing better than smoking them in Havana. I enjoy these stories and vids. Keep them up!

doug\_wade@shaw.ca March 19, 2012 3:30pm ET

The Varadero airport yesterday had the range of Behike so I bought the only box of Behike 52's on the shelf.

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## Cuba Quandary

By James Suckling (/author/show/ld/8)

From Michael Douglas, May/Jun 98 (/issue/show/date/1998-05-01)

### As Cubans Increase Cigar Production, the Quality is Starting to Suffer

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As the eyes of the world watched Pope John Paul II travel through Cuba in late January, workers furiously produced cigars in the Fernando Perez German factory in the heart of Havana, just behind the capitol building. The expansive rolling room where such cigars as Partagas Serie D No. 4, Montecristo A and Cohiba Esplendidos originate was packed to the walls with benches full of men and women assembling cigars. Many of the workers looked as if they were in their late teens or early 20s, new arrivals to what until recently was one of the most tradition-bound professions in Cuba.

As always, a man at the front of the room read to the rollers over the loudspeaker the day's news from the official state newspaper, *Granma*. Everyone was intently listening to the stories of the Pope's mission in one of the world's last bastions of communism, but their focus was mostly on the fresh cigars they were rolling. The month before, they and thousands of other Cuban rollers had reached the nation's 1997 goal of rolling more than 100 million cigars for export. This year the government plans to make a mind-boggling 160 million. Like just about every other cigar factory in Havana, Fernando Perez German (which was known as Partagas until the early 1960s) proudly displayed in its entrance a certificate from the state-run Union of Tobacco Workers that cited the factory for helping make 102 million cigars in 1997.

On a different floor of the factory, cigars were being sorted by wrapper color, fixed with the proper bands and placed in boxes. In one room, thousands of pine and cedar boxes were being dressed with colors and designs of just about every brand conceivable, from Partagas to Hoyo de Monterrey. The boxes carried the appropriate factory code on their underside—"FPG," for Fernando Perez German. The code also indicated when the cigars were placed in their boxes—ONSU—or January 1998.

However, a few thousand boxes in the room seemed slightly different from the rest. Covered with the packaging for the Partagas brand, they carried the code "FP9" instead of the normal "FPG." Was this a new code? Was it a new factory? No. It was a simple yet large-scale printing mistake. All hell broke loose when I pointed out the problem to one of the heads of quality control in the factory. She asked various people to look at the mistake and then told them to correct it. This didn't change the fact that thousands of boxes with "FP9" were still being filled with cigars. "That's just a minor mistake," said one Cuban cigarworker. "We are not going to reject them for something like that."

Minor mistakes, however, may be adding up to a major problem for Cuban cigars. Just about every flaw imaginable can be found in Cuban cigars at the moment, from ugly wrappers to tightly rolled bunches to raw filler tobacco; yet, at the same time, some of the best cigars in years are being produced, perhaps some of the best ever. For instance, the quality of the wrapper tobacco currently used on the cigars is outstanding, with a dark, rich and oily look.

However, it's this outrageous quality versus quantity paradox at the moment that has people's heads spinning. Everyone from the Cubans themselves to serious cigar aficionados are asking if huge production increases set for this year and the future can be accomplished without ruining the quality and image of the Cuban cigar industry. Many say it doesn't look promising.

The Cubans are pushing themselves to the limit to meet massive production quotas set by the Ministry of Agriculture. From new plantations to new factories to new workers, everything possible is being done to increase cigar production to historic levels. If the Cubans reach their production goal of 160 million cigars by the end of the year, it will be the first time that they have surpassed 120 million since the early 1980s. If they reach 300 million by 2000 (a goal they revised from 200 million just a few months ago), it will be the first time in a century that they have attained such stellar production levels—and this is with a massive proportion of completely handmade, large-sized cigars, instead of the small ones that dominated the market until a few decades ago.

Cuba has apparently solved its tobacco-shortage problems of the mid-1990s. Last year's crop suffered a little during the production cycle, but this year's crop, much of which had been harvested by late January, looked fabulous. An early February storm, however, slightly changed the situation. Turbulent winds up to 100 miles per hour and torrential rainstorms ripped through most of the key tobacco growing areas, including the Vuelta Abajo and the Partido, as well as raising havoc in Havana. Although a large part of the crop had already been picked, the remainder was hit hard, especially the wrapper crop growing under the cheesecloth shades, called *tapados*.

"My crop was not affected very much, maybe five percent," said Alejandro Robaina, the legendary grower of wrapper tobacco near the town of San Luiz in the Vuelta Abajo. "However, it was a different story for those who planted later." News reports on Cuban television showed tapados shredded into bits, as well as leveled fields of tobacco. A quick trip in mid-February out to fields near the towns of Pinar del Rio and San Juan y Martinez confirmed these reports; many of the tapados were torn down, tobacco plants were growing slightly askew and new plantings were underway. However, the handful of workers I spoke with said that the damage was minimal.

Though problems may have been averted in the fields, the Cubans still face them in the factories. "I am fed up," said Luigi Fasolini, a retired journalist from Milan and a longtime Cuban cigar lover, as he stood in a cigar shop in Havana in late January. "The quality is just not there all the time. The Cubans are making too many cigars. They have too many new rollers. I buy a box for \$300 or \$400, and four or five of the cigars are unsmokable because they don't draw. I am not complaining about the blend of tobacco. It's the construction of the cigars that I am worried about. I am going to start smoking more cigars from other countries or I am going to stop smoking altogether. It's just too frustrating."

Cigar merchants are equally anxious. "I don't know what to say," said one Cuban cigar agent based in continental Europe. "I am very concerned with the quality. How can the Cubans maintain quality when they are producing so much?"

A London cigar merchant added, "We have more large-sized and popular-shaped cigars than in years past, but we still receive boxes of cigars that I simply cannot sell because the quality is not there, whether it has bad wrappers or poor construction. What can I do about it?"

Even Cubans in the industry in Havana have their concerns. "I don't want to be quoted," said one cigar shop manager, "but the quality from some factories is very good, but in many others it isn't. When you talk about the quality of cigars, you really have to discuss it on a factory-by-factory basis."

Quality was a hot topic during a daylong mid-February seminar in Havana attended by cigar merchants and consumers from around the world. Speaker after speaker asked how Cuba could maintain the quality of its cigars when production was increasing geometrically.

To give the Cubans some credit, key members of the island's cigar industry are not completely blind to the quality issue. Officials at Habanos S.A., the government's global cigar marketing and distribution arm, said that they were attempting to install better quality control measures. "We have definitely increased the quality control," said Ana Lopez, head of marketing for Habanos. "We have heard from the consumer and clients that they are concerned, and we know that there may be some problems. But we are doing the most we can to fix this. For example, we are now going to the factories and checking the quality of the cigars before they are shipped out. We want to reinforce the quality. It is one of our main points for this year. We must maintain quality."

Still, various sources in Cuba concede that enforcing a high level of quality control is very difficult. For instance, Habanos has been trying to persuade the ministry to integrate the production, distribution and marketing of cigars, but its efforts for the most part have fallen on deaf ears. Interestingly, a similar suggestion was made about three years ago by former Habanos head Francisco Padrón, and after he was rebuffed, he resigned in protest. (He now teaches at the University of Havana.)

"Some sectors in the government obviously see cigars as an important source of revenue, and they don't want to lose control of that source," said one cigar man in Havana. "They don't want Habanos in control."

The government is certainly putting production in top gear. Just five years ago, fewer than one dozen factories produced cigars for export. The count now tops 30. Most of the new factories are facilities that had made cigars for the domestic market, but were switched to export production. How the factories' production methods are improved for export is unknown. Local-market cigars have always been of lower quality, both in craftsmanship and tobacco, than those for export.

In addition, thousands of new rollers are being introduced to cigar factories. Nearly every factory has a rolling school with 100 or more students learning the craft. Most instructors say it takes nine months for a roller to learn, but they admit that some are put to work after a couple of months if they show promise. Some factory officials say that rollers with just over a year's experience can qualify for rolling the illustrious category-seven sizes, which include such difficult-to-roll cigars as double coronas, torpedos and Churchills. Just three years ago, this would have been unthinkable. The same people say that it used to take up to three or four years to do the same. Are the new students' abilities so much better than before, or do the factories need to increase their production regardless of the rollers' talents?

"I am very impressed with the quality of the young rollers," said Natari Fernandez, head of quality control for the Romeo y Julieta factory. "They do their work with the same skill and love as the older rollers before them. I am sure that the quality is as good or better than before."

The number of machine-made cigars is certainly higher than before. In 1997, machine-made cigars totaled about 13 million, although some say the official figure is much lower than what was actually made. This year, Cubans hope to make about 40 million machine-made cigars, and this doesn't include the hundreds of thousands of handmade cigars with short-leaf filler, or "Cuban sandwich" cigars as some like to call them. "We see a good market for such cigars since they are much less expensive than handmade ones and they have the same quality filler," said one Habanos spokesman.

The fact that specific brands continue to be produced in multiple factories may make it difficult for the Cubans to control the blends and rolling methods of particular brands. In other cigar manufacturing countries, cigar brands are normally made in a specific factory, where the quality of the brand and the blend of tobacco can be more closely monitored. "You can't properly control the quality of a particular cigar brand if you are making it in several factories," said Orlando Padrón, the patriarch of Padrón Cigars, which produces cigars in Nicaragua. "We have tried and it doesn't work."

It is certainly debatable if multiple-factory, single-brand production works in Cuba. For years, Cubans have said "mother factories" systematically send technicians to satellite factories to control the blends and quality of their cigars, but in some cases, it doesn't appear to be true. Smoke a Montecristo made outside Havana—with box codes such as VC or CM—and see for yourself. The quality is not there. Various factory managers outside of Havana admit that they never see technicians from mother factories. They do not even see quality-control people from the Ministry of Agriculture. Moreover, they say that they have to use every bale of tobacco sent to them from the ministry, regardless of its quality.

This isn't to say that some factories do not work extremely well. The highest-quality factories are Havana's El Laguito (EL on the box), José Martí (JM), formerly H. Upmann; Fernando Roig (FR), formerly La Corona; and Briones Montoto (BM), formerly Romeo y Julieta. Buy boxes of cigars from these factories—be sure to check the code on the bottom of the boxes—and you shouldn't have a problem acquiring quality smokes. (Be aware that the codes are expected to be changed sometime this year.)

When we visited them this past winter, the managers and quality control people at these factories were the country's most conscientious about quality. Moreover, handmade cigars being produced in the rolling rooms in these factories looked magnificent, although a large number of tobacco workers recommended aging the cigars for up to a year before smoking to overcome their slightly raw character. All the quality-control people agreed that the pressure from the government to produce and ship cigars was so intense that they could not process or age their tobacco and cigars properly.

Of all the cigar factories, El Laguito is probably the best. The mother factory for Cohiba, it exclusively produces four sizes: Lancero, Corona Especial, Exquisito and Panatela. So if you must have a Cohiba, buy those. The other sizes, such as Esplendidos and Robusto, are made in a number of other factories in Havana, and their quality is less consistent. El Laguito also makes the new Trinidad cigar, which was launched in Havana in February at a gala dinner at the Habana Libre Hotel (see sidebar, page 100). El Laguito manager Emilia Tamayo soon hopes to produce the entire range of Cohiba cigars at her factory when it is enlarged this year, instead of having such sizes as Siglo, Robusto and Esplendidos made in other factories. "I want to be in control of my cigars. It makes sense," Tamayo said, adding emphatically, "I would rather die than produce poor cigars in my factory."

Whether changing the production structure would ever make sense to the Ministry of Agriculture remains to be seen. No one from the agency would comment or meet with Cigar Aficionado to discuss the quality dilemma. The ministry did insist that editors from this magazine as well as anyone else visiting the factories pay an entrance fee: \$10 for a tour, \$75 for taking photographs and \$150 for filming. "The entire thing is out of hand," said one factory manager. "We have to reduce the number of tourists visiting factories since it inhibits workers from doing their jobs, but they seem to see the visitors as a source of income."

Indeed, cigars are an increasingly important source of income for the Cuban economy. This year, Cuban cigar exports will approach US\$300 million. The local market for tourists buying Cuban cigars has risen from just a few hundred thousand dollars about five years ago to close to \$10 million last year. Factory visits, gala dinners and cigar sales add up to a lot of money in the government's coffers.

But some people are fed up with what they perceive as the government's obsession with hard currency. "I did not go to the Trinidad dinner this year because I felt that the Cubans do not appreciate the work which we have done promoting and selling their cigars," said Edward Sahakian, owner of the Davidoff shop in London. "All they seem interested in at the moment is gaining more money."

It's this perceived obsession that could ruin Cuba's plans for selling 300 million cigars two or three years from now. Printing the wrong code on a few thousand boxes is a mistake that few will take seriously, but making mediocre cigars is another matter. In the April 1998 issue of Cigar Aficionado, a Cuban Partagas received an 80, the worst rating the magazine has ever given to a Cuban cigar.

All of these concerns about quality were thoroughly discussed in a meeting with Francisco Linares, the head of Habanos S.A., and he took serious note of every point. "We are not going to let anything ruin the reputation of Cuban cigars," he declared. "We are extremely concerned with the quality of Habanos, and we will do everything possible to control it." Trumpeting Trinidad Cuba Launches its New Cigar Brand with a Gala Dinner and Auction in Havana

A dozen people were standing at the door of the cigar shop at the Melia Cohiba hotel. It was morning, minutes before the shop opened on February 21, the day after a gala dinner to launch Cuba's newest commercial cigar brand, Trinidad. Cubans had never seen anything like it. Hotel workers and passersby stared at the line in disbelief. As soon as the glass doors opened, cigar smokers piled into the small shop, grabbed their cedar boxes of Trinidad and quickly paid for them at the tiny cash register.

Marco Bacchetta, a Swiss banker and restaurant owner based in London, was the last in line. "It seemed crazy to stand in line to buy some cigars, but I wanted to make sure that I received a few boxes of Trinidads," he said after buying two boxes containing 24 cigars in each. "I came to Cuba for the dinner so I am certainly not going back without the cigars."

With the official send-off behind it, Trinidad is set to be introduced into Mexico and Canada in late spring, and already the legendary marque is receiving great fanfare. Only one size is currently available. Banded with the brand's distinctive gold-and-black label, the Trinidad Fundador measures 7 1/2 inches long by 40 ring gauge, the same length as the well-known Cohiba Lanceros but two millimeters thicker. The cigar is available in boxes of 24 and 50. Trinidad sells for about \$330 a box of 24 in Havana, priced between Cohiba Lanceros and Esplendidos.

Originally, Trinidad was the same size as the Cohiba Lanceros, although its darker wrapper made it slightly stronger in flavor. First rolled in the early 1990s in response to Cohiba's soaring popularity, a few hundred Trinidads were made each month, for use almost exclusively as diplomatic gifts from top Cuban government officials. It was first served publicly at a dinner organized by Cigar Aficionado in Paris in 1993.

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## Inside Cuban Cigars—A Talk With Cubatabaco Head Francisco Padron

By Marvin R. Shanken (/author/show/id/210)

From Rush Limbaugh, Spring 94 (/issue/show/date/1994-03-01)

*Cigar Aficionado meets with Cubatabaco's top official, Francisco Padron, to discuss Cuba's cigar industry.*

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Francisco Padron, the director of Cubatabaco, Cuba's cigar export sales group, didn't get much good news in 1993. A March storm severely damaged the tobacco crop and the cloth tarps used to grow shade wrappers. In combination with other factors, Padron was forced to cut back sharply on Cuba's cigar exports.

Cigar Aficionado Editor and Publisher Marvin R. Shanken interviewed Padron in Mexico City in early December. They discussed the current state of the Cuban cigar industry and what the future holds for the country's cigar exports.

Cigar Aficionado: There has been a lot of talk that [the 1993] hurricane severely damaged Cuba's tobacco crops, and that this has affected quality and quantity, particularly for wrappers. What is the situation for production of Havana handmade cigars for export? What can we look forward to in the next few years?

Francisco Padron: The hurricane caused a great deal of damage. We lost about 60 percent of our crop. It was only a quantity problem, however. The quality was very good, very good. It is a pity that in this past year we have been having very good quality crops, but the quantity has not been good. We are not delivering enough cigars to the world market because of this.

C.A.: But the word was that the large leaf wrapper crop was annihilated, and that this was going to adversely affect the production of large-sized cigars—the double coronas, Churchills and so forth?

Padron: If you have a big crop, you deliver more large leaves and you have more room to produce more large cigars and to choose the best leaves. When you have a small crop, it's the inverse. Wrappers are a very delicate thing. So when the hurricane came, it hurt the wrapper crop. It hurt all of the crop, but particularly the wrapper crop.

But even with that problem, we produced [in 1993] about 200 million cigars for the domestic market. But we are not delivering anything to the export market that does not have the right quality because quality is the first thing above all for us.

C.A.: In 1993, what were the total exports for Cuban cigars?

Padron: About 57 million cigars in 1993.

C.A.: What did you export in 1992?

Padron: 67 million.

C.A.: And in 1991?

Padron: 77 million.

C.A.: And 1990?

Padron: More or less the same quantity, about 80 million.

C.A.: With the hurricane damage, what do you forecast your exports to be in 1994?

Padron: Let's first discuss how we are going to increase our production. Worse than the hurricane is the embargo, the double embargo. Right now, it's almost like there's an embargo from the other socialist countries. We used to buy from them, fertilizers and plenty of other things for our crops. What is hurting us the most is that we can't buy right now, nor have we bought from the eastern socialist countries during the past three years what we used to buy from them for the cigar crop.

C.A.: What are some of these things?

Padron: Fertilizers and plenty of other things. For example, all the covers or tents used for growing wrapper leaves came from the Soviet Union. And now we can't get them. We used to buy 20 million square meters. Oil, gasoline and diesel. That is very short, and this really hurts the crop.

C.A.: What do you do if you don't have the tenting for the wrapper crop?

Padron: We reduce the crop. It is as simple as that. You can reuse about 30 percent of the old tents, but the storm [in 1993] destroyed all of the tents.

C.A.: That means those losses will affect future harvests?

Padron: We think that this coming crop will be a little better, and those afterward should be very big ones. For the '94 crop and on, we have solved almost all of our problems, almost everything.

C.A.: So a year from now you should be back to the '90 and '91 levels?

Padron: Even bigger.

C.A.: What is your target for 1995?

Padron: We think that in 1995, we should export 70 million cigars, and in 1996, we should have 80 million to 90 million.

C.A.: But what do you forecast for 1994?

Padron: There will be no more than 50 million cigars.

C.A.: No more? Some people say much less.

Padron: No. No. That is more or less what we are going to do. Remember this. We never, never export cigars unless they are of the right quality. Of course, you may not believe that we can choose or that we wouldn't take a lesser-quality wrapper from the domestic market production and use it for export. But that is not the case.



We have to be careful, very careful. Besides, you know what decides the cigar is the shortest crop because we mix three crops. And if you have two short crops in a row, you have problems. So, we have been taking more tobacco from our warehouses.

C.A.: Another comment is that because of the difficult economic situation in Cuba, you don't age the cigars in warehouses as long as you used to because of the shortages in supply and the need for dollars.

Padron: That is not true for cigars. I have instructions directly from Fidel. He has said that I mustn't deliver cigars that are not the best quality. He says that they represent the image of the best quality of Cuba. So we never do anything else but deliver the best quality.

C.A.: In the numbers that you have given me for 1990 to 1995, what percentage is handmade versus machine made?

Padron: Now we only have about 10 million or 15 million machine-made cigars. That's it.

C.A.: So that's pretty steady. You are not looking to increase or decrease the machine made?

Padron: That depends on the orders. This is a business. If anybody asks for the cheaper machine-made cigars, we are going to deliver. Our priority, however, is handmade, not machine-made cigars.

C.A.: You are delivering in the area of 50 or 60 million cigars, and let's say 40 to 45 million are handmade. With the increasing demand for Cuban cigars, do you have any idea what the total world demand would be for handmade Cuban cigars?

Padron: Without the United States, we estimate the market to be from 90 to 100 million cigars.

C.A.: And with the United States?

Padron: 20 million more and increasing in four years.

C.A.: At the Cigar Aficionado seminar we held in New York, a panel discussed Cuba. It included Edgar Cullman, Nick Freeman, Theo Folz—top people in the cigar trade. We asked them about the embargo: how long did they think it would continue, given the current political environment and the leadership of Clinton. They seemed to have a consensus feeling that the lifting of the embargo was another five to seven years away. They added that in order to revitalize Cuba's cigar production it would take another five years. So, it would be 10 or 12 years before there is any balance of supply and demand, if the United States could buy Havana cigars. What would your response be to that?

Padron: I am not a politician. Things are moving. As Jose Martí [the legendary, 19th-century, Cuban political hero] said, "the most important thing in politics is what you don't see."

C.A.: A lot of people—cigar lovers—are disappointed that there has been no significant movement to bring things together between the two countries and that President Clinton has maintained the policy and given support to the Cuban-American Foundation of (Jorge) Mas Canosa. Do you see anything happening from the Cuban side that might lead to an end to the embargo, or is it really up to when the United States decides that it's enough already?

Padron: It is like a fight between Goliath and David. And you don't know who must make the first move.

C.A.: If the embargo ended tomorrow or two or five years from now, have you thought through how it would happen and what the scenario would be? You would have problems with certain brands as far as trademark issues, and with other brands you do not have a problem. Have you thought how you would introduce your brands to the American market?

Padron: First, there is going to be a fight. We have not been able to have the brand name in the United States because of the embargo. It was forced by you [the United States]. It was not decided by our side. Your side decided on this. So, maybe there is going to be a fight. But we are not going to fight in order to get our cigars into the United States. As we always say, a Habano [cigar] is a Habano [cigar]. With a name of Marvin or Padron or Meyer or whatever goes on the cigar, it is a Habano. So, we are going to let everybody know that we are here, and this is a Habano. We are not going to fight with somebody else because he owns the brand name of Cohiba or Montecristo in America. We have been living without that for a long time.

C.A.: So if you cannot resolve the issue, you would introduce new brand names which are Habano, and there would not be a conflict unless the government said that this issue must be resolved. You know the issue is that the families who lost the brand names say that they are entitled to have those brand names back, which is more confusing because of certain problems in the international market such as what has happened with Spain's tobacco monopoly, Tabacalera. Could you explain briefly what is the situation there as far as Montecristo, H. Upmann, Partagas and other brands?

Padron: In general, we have solved our disagreement in a way so that it will not hurt or create any problems for Tabacalera. This will help us to keep delivering Montecristo, Upmann, Partagas and others to the Spanish market.

C.A.: So you are continuing to supply Spain, but who owns the brand names now? I thought that the worldwide rights, except for a few countries such as the United States, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and others, were sold to Tabacalera by Consolidated and General Cigar?

Padron: Tabacalera owns the names. But they do not own the name in all countries. We own them in plenty of other key countries in the world.

C.A.: In what countries do you still own the brand name Montecristo, as an example, since it is your biggest brand?

Padron: We own it in the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and plenty of other countries.

C.A.: In what important countries does Tabacalera own the brand?

Padron: France and Spain are the most important. They are our two biggest markets.

C.A.: So you are supplying the brand to them, and you have worked it out to continue the flow. What about the situation with the French tobacco monopoly, Seita? There was a lawsuit regarding Montecristo and Partagas...

Padron: We are still in the courts.

C.A.: But I thought that you lost one of the lawsuits?

Padron: Yes, but we are now in the upper courts.

C.A.: Have they decided what you have to pay in damages? I heard more than \$10 million....

Padron: No. No. They are asking for the sky. The stars. Everything.

C.A.: What are they asking?

Padron: I don't remember exactly. I don't want to even think about it.

C.A.: What is the lawsuit about? Who owns the name?

Padron: They want to get money for the use of Montecristo and Partagas since we introduced those brand names in France. This is an incredible thing because I can show you the figures. Montecristo and Partagas were nothing in the '60s and early '70s. We made the reputation of Montecristo and Partagas.

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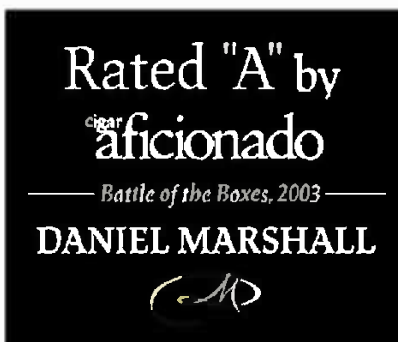
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## Lost Great Smokes

Posted April 16, 2001

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Posted April 16, 2001, 5 p.m. e.s.t.

It was about 3 a.m. when I finally gave the Partagas Short to my Cuban friend. Granted, he had been dancing most of the night with some other friends at the Macumba Habana club in Havana, and he was fairly well lit on seven-year-old Havana Club rum. So, I wasn't expecting him to notice anything special about the cigar when I gave it to him. But you should have seen his face.

"Wow, man, this is a great smoke," he said, drawing on the cigar as if it were his last smoke before facing a firing squad. He was looking at the small cigar as he smoked it and slowly shaking it in his hand as if it were a long-lost friend. "This has power. This has flavor. What is it?" he asked.

I told him that it was a Partagas Short and that it came from a cedar cabinet of 50 that I had been storing in Havana for five years. He shook his head and said, "You don't get cigars like this anymore."

If anyone would know, he would. He works in the Cuban cigar trade. But more important, he is right. You can't get Cuban cigars like you used to. As much as people like to say otherwise, Cuban cigars, on the whole, are just not the same as they used to be. It's not that the new cigars are bad quality (some are, of course), it's that most of them on the market today are only good to very good smokes. Occasionally, you can come across some phenomenal ones. I recently lit up a Cohiba Robusto from the current crop in Havana shops and it was superb — rich and spicy with loads of coffee character, just how it should be.

With a few exceptions, however, Cuban cigars today do not have the richness or flavor of those from four or five years ago. Smoke a 10-year-old Habanos and the difference is even more stark. A few months ago, I smoked a Cohiba Robusto and an Epicure No. 2 (also a robusto) from 1990, and they were both mind-blowing. The Cohiba smelled so good in the box that I didn't want to light it. It reeked of freshly ground coffee, cloves, pepper and cedar. It was full bodied with decadently rich flavors that lingered on the palate. The Epicure No. 2 was even better, with floral, cinnamon and milk chocolate notes. It was medium bodied with a wonderfully fresh aftertaste.

By comparison, the new cigars on the market, from Punch and Hoyo de Monterrey Double Coronas to Montecristo No. 5s and Cohiba panetelas, have much less flavor than any of the older cigars. Also, they taste more alike than they used to. I find a large number of the Cuban cigars I now buy and smoke look good, but they all seem to have a similar medium body and creamy, spicy character. They are not exactly the same, but the differences in flavor, in brands and in sizes are less well defined than before.

Some Cubans in the cigar trade tell me that my palate has changed and that I am so used to big, rich cigars that I can't tell the difference anymore. I guess that's a nice way of saying that my palate is burned out. But that's nonsense. I don't have to defend my tasting abilities to anyone, considering my taste buds earn my living. More to the point is that most Cuban cigar aficionados I speak to agree with my assessment. They yearn for the days of big, rich smokes, when the differences between brands and types of cigars were more than obvious; the days when Bolivar Belicosos were as rich and powerful as a serious espresso; the days when Romeo y Julieta Belicosos were as flavorful, aromatic and fine as a cup of refreshing Darjeeling tea. They were both great cigars, but completely different in character.

If you think I am way off, then take a look at the Cuban cigar forum. There's nearly always a posting on this subject.

So what has happened? It's hard to point a finger at one reason why Cuban cigars are no longer as rich and powerful as they once were. The problems are numerous with Cuban cigar production, but the most understandable is the continued shortage of good tobacco, both filler and wrapper. Without the best *materia prima* (raw material), the Cubans are not going to make great cigars. It's like a great chef who uses only frozen ingredients; he's never going to cook something outstanding.

Quality wrapper tobacco has been a big problem. Mother Nature has been hard on the Cubans for the past few years, not only making the growing of tobacco difficult, but also the curing due to wet weather in the spring. The introduction of Habanos 2000 (which has been abandoned this year) and other hybrids has been less than 100 percent successful. Most become susceptible to disease within a year or two. Plus, the processing of the new wrappers is not as fine-tuned as with the late and great El Corojo tobacco variety. Some say the wrapper processing has been grossly rushed, which obviously also undermines quality.

Another problem has been the filler tobacco *ligero*, which means light in Spanish, but is actually the richest and most powerful of the fillers. Dark and rich *ligero* just isn't available at the moment. A roller might use a quarter or a half leaf of this tobacco when making a cigar and it can make all the difference in the world in taste and character. It's like when a chef uses salt and pepper — without them, everything tastes bland and rather the same.

Most of the problems with tobacco can be attributed to the ill-conceived idea over the last three or four years to increase Cuban cigar production to monumental levels. It was a policy that almost killed the goose that laid the golden egg. There just wasn't enough *materia prima* to sustain such rapid growth. The tobacco that did exist was not properly processed, whether by forcing the curing with heating or in ovens, or by shortening fermentation and the aging of the tobacco.

However, this destructive policy appears to be over. Apparently, the Spanish and French at Altadis have weighed in and changed the course after paying about \$477 million for a piece of the Cuban cigar business. Granted, it is only for 50 percent of the distribution organization, Habanos SA, but the Europeans know that they won't find any return on their investment selling less than outstanding-quality cigars. The word is that they are insisting on decreasing production and increasing quality — price increases will be undoubtedly forthcoming. But I would be more than willing to pay more for Cuban cigars if I could be sure of their quality and character.

Regardless of the amount of Cuban cigars produced or exported last year, it's almost certain that many of these Habanos will not have the quality and character we cigar aficionados hope for. Until then, we can only smoke what we have from the past and get by with the current crop in anticipation of better Habanos in the future.

Reprinted from the April Issue of Cigar Aficionado.

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## Feature: Where There's Smoke

BY BRENT BUTTERWORTH AND RICHARD CARLETON HACKER NOVEMBER 1, 2007



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After Fidel Castro took control of Cuba in 1959, many of the country's cigar makers decamped for more favorable political climates. Most settled in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and soon thereafter, each of those countries became known for cigars with a certain taste: Smokers regarded products from the Dominican Republic as mild and often insufficiently flavorful, and those from Honduras and Nicaragua as potent and lacking in subtlety.

These generalizations no longer hold true. While *puros*—cigars blended with tobacco from a single nation—were common in the 1970s and 1980s, most of today's cigars contain mixes of tobaccos from various nations, including the three aforementioned countries, Brazil, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. Blenders have access to countless varieties of tobacco from which the most creative can fashion an infinite number of flavors.

Here, we sample the best of the latest blends from the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Nicaragua, which, Cuba aside, are the leading sources of premium cigars.

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This country that is roughly the combined size of Vermont and New Hampshire produces approximately 214 million cigars a year and the majority of the world's

premium smokes. By comparison, Cuba makes an estimated 120 million to 150 million cigars annually. Indeed, Castro's ascension to power in Cuba and the United States' subsequent embargo of that country's exports, including cigars, proved a boon to the Dominican Republic's cigar industry. Families representing the Partagas, H. Upmann, and Hoyo de Monterrey brands were among the cigar-making clans who fled to this nation just southeast of Cuba shortly after Castro's takeover. Their arrival dramatically expanded what previously had been a fledgling industry.

In 1492, Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola, which the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti, and among his discoveries were primitive cigars: The native Taino Indians would inhale smoke through rolled-up tobacco leaves that they placed in a fire. Today, most Dominican cigars are produced in factories located in government-established Free Trade Zones near the city of Santiago. An exception is the cigar-making giant Altadis, which has its factory in La Romana, on the east side of the country.

Premium tobacco is grown in the country's two agriculturally rich areas, the Cibao and the Real valleys. Each contains a wide range of soils that nourish some of the world's most flavorful fillers and binders. The native Olor Dominicano and the Cuban-seed Piloto Cubano are among the tobaccos grown here. The Dominican Republic originally was not known for wrappers, but General Cigar and the Arturo Fuente family changed that perception with the leaves they began growing in the mid-1990s. Other companies, including Davidoff, now offer cigars made with Dominican Republic wrappers, binders, and fillers, thus enabling the country to join Cuba and Nicaragua as producers of *puros*.

### Turn on the Light

The **Avo 787** is the latest creation from Avo Uvezian, a master of the light-bodied cigar. Like many of Uvezian's blends, it combines a wrapper grown in Ecuador from Connecticut seeds with various mild filler leaves from the Dominican Republic. The name 787 refers to the manner in which the cigars are packaged—a row of seven cigars on the bottom, a row of eight in the middle, and another row of seven on top—which is supposed to help them maintain their draws and their round shapes. The 787's gentle, subtly leathery taste makes it perfect for any occasion, any time of day, and almost any smoker. ([www.avo.com](http://www.avo.com))

### Symphony in Smoke

Just as Antonio Stradivari incorporated various woods to achieve the dulcet tones of his masterpieces, the **Stradivarius de los Maestros** combines intricately honed tobaccos to create a harmony of flavors. The filler is Dominican, Nicaraguan, and Mexican leaf from vintage years, and the binder is Cuban-seed tobacco aged for two years in palm-wrapped bales called *tercios*. The silky spice of the 15-year-old Connecticut shade wrapper resonates with flavor and background rhythms of spicy earth. The cigars come in three sizes—a 6¾ x 43 lonsdale, a 7½ x 49 Churchill, and our favorite, a 5½ x 50 *robusto* major—all of which are packaged in boxes that have been painted and lacquered to resemble marble. ([www.cigarworld.com](http://www.cigarworld.com))

### Triple Crown

The **J.C. Newman Diamond Crown Holiday Collection** is a trio of cigars packaged in a leather case and limited to 1,000 sets. All three are 6¾ x 54 double *belicosos*. The Connecticut Shade Diamond Crown features a wrapper that has been aged five years; the Maximus previously was available in only a 50-ring size; and the Cameroon Diamond Crown marks the first time this full-bodied cigar has been made with aged West African leaf. ([www.cigarfamily.com](http://www.cigarfamily.com))

### Pure Davidoff

For years, rumors persisted that Hendrik Kelner, Davidoff's master blender, was conducting secret hybrid tobacco experiments involving perhaps pre-Castro seeds, or maybe alien pods. No one knew, or no one would say, what Kelner was up to. It turns out that he was working on the **Davidoff Capa Dominicana** (*capa* is Spanish for wrapper), a Dominican *puro*. It features a silky wrapper grown in Yamasá, a humid region north of Davidoff's other farms' locations. Davidoff ferments the tobaccos in enclosed, Cuban-style curing barns, instead of in the open structures common to the Dominican Republic. The wrapper emits a heavily spiced, grassy flavor. ([www.davidoff.com](http://www.davidoff.com))

### Wisdom of Salomon

Cusano recently launched a new brand, Cuvée, to designate its limited-production cigars. The **Cuvée Blanc** features a light Ecuadorian-grown, Connecticut-seed wrapper shrouding tobaccos from various countries. (Although the cigar is rolled in the Dominican Republic, its blend features only a small amount of that country's tobacco.) The complexly flavored Cuvée Blanc exhibits a light-to-medium body and a slight tang that complement beers from Central America and the Caribbean. Various sizes are available, but the most impressive by far is the 7¼ x 57 Salomon, a beefy *perfecto* tapered at both ends. ([www.cusanocigars.com](http://www.cusanocigars.com))

### Enter the Dragon

The boxes containing the **Gurkha Black Dragon** are lined not with cedar, but rather with an audacious orange suede. The cigar inside the packaging, though, is much more stately. Its deep Cameroon wrapper and rich Nicaraguan and Peruvian filler give this intimidating, dark cigar a surprisingly accessible flavor. It has the body of our other Gurkha favorites, the Titan and the Beast, without

those cigars' peppery zip. The Black Dragon is available in three sizes; the one that best fits the presentation is the 8½ x 52 *presidente*. Gurkha will produce only 5,000 boxes of the cigars per year. ([www.gurkhacigars.com](http://www.gurkhacigars.com))

## HONDURAS

In this country where jagged, jungle-covered mountains rise from undergrowth so thick that it completely entangles Mayan ruins and shields much of the ground from direct sunlight, only 16 percent of the land is cultivated. Yet Honduras is the world's third-largest producer of premium cigars, exporting about 103 million annually. (Nicaragua is a distant fourth, making some 60 million cigars a year.)

Honduras often is referred to as "the other Cuba," because its soil, particularly in the Jamastran Valley, is similar to that of Cuba's Vuelta Abajo and Partido regions. Recently, the remote valley of San Agustín began producing Havana-like *rosado* wrappers; the Punch Gran Puro was the first cigar made with San Agustín

wrapper, and its filler also includes some of the leaf.

The soil in the countryside is rich enough in nutrients to support 6,000 different types of plants, including 630 varieties of orchids and the cedar trees from which cigar boxes are made. This vibrant setting lured a number of Cuban cigar makers, who, upon their arrival, cleared expanses of jungle so that they could plant their Cuban seeds.

One of the most popular cigars in the United States in the years shortly after the U.S. government imposed the embargo on Cuban exports was the Honduran Hoyo de Monterrey, which possessed a meaty heft that reminded many smokers of the outlawed Havanas. Today, Honduran cigars remain a popular choice for smokers seeking legal alter-natives to Cubans.

### Packing a Punch

The **Punch Rare Corojo** consists of a blend of five tobaccos—an Ecuador-grown Sumatran-seed wrapper, a Connecticut broadleaf binder, and fillers from Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic—and yields a flavor that is powerful yet surprisingly silky and complex, with overtones of spice and nuts. The latest variant of this cigar, the Punch Rare Corojo Crystale, is encased in a glass tube that conforms to the pointed shape of the 5½ x 54 torpedo inside. It is the first pointed glass tube we have encountered, and it is a fitting package for such a distinctive cigar. ([www.cigarworld.com](http://www.cigarworld.com))

### Secret Recipe

The **Rocky Patel Decade** marks that company's 10th anniversary, but little else has been revealed about the cigar. The company does not divulge any information about the origin of the tobaccos, which levels (or primings) of the tobacco plant they come from, how they are processed, or how long they are aged. However, Patel himself did tell us that the wrapper is grown in Ecuador from Sumatran seeds. Regardless of what it is made from, the Decade is Patel's most refined blend, with a smoother, subtler flavor than his other cigars. Substantial aging is apparent. Patel offers the Decade in four sizes, including the fashionable 6½ x 44 lonsdale. ([www.rockypatel.com](http://www.rockypatel.com))

### Breaking with Tradition

Unlike the big, meaty Hoyo de Monterrey, the **Hoyo de Tradición** has a delicate, almost floral aroma that evokes French-pressed coffee, not espresso. The Spanish box-pressed wrapper is one of the oiliest we have encountered. The finish is dry and lingering and includes a touch of cedar. The Honduran Jamastran Viso Rosado wrapper, combined with Honduran, Dominican, and Nicaraguan filler, lends a taste of caramelized honey. The cigar is available in four sizes, of which the 5¼ x 50 Epicure, with its refined, medium strength, is ideal for a late-afternoon or early-evening smoke. ([www.cigarworld.com](http://www.cigarworld.com))

### Three is a Magic Number

Maduro leaves normally are reserved for cigar wrappers, and a few manufacturers have used them for binders (the leaf under the wrapper) as well. Camacho might be the first to offer a cigar made entirely from maduro leaf. The **Camacho Triple Maduro** may

seem intimidating given the company's reputation for producing powerful smokes, but experienced smokers will find it quite smooth. Although the cigar is thoroughly saturated with maduro flavor, the blend is lighter than that of Camacho's Corojo and Coyolar Puro. For any serious smoker, the Triple Maduro is a must-try. ([www.camachocigars.com](http://www.camachocigars.com))

## Powerful Art

The four freehand shapes of Felipe Gregorio's **The Art of Power** cigars might appear irregular, but creating them requires great skill; the torcedors have to be talented enough to work without molds. The Antonius is a reverse perfecto, the Lord Byron a reverse torpedo. The Goliath has a maduro tip that delivers a hit of sweetness during the first few puffs. The Caesar (above, in the middle) is a triple-wrap featuring Candela, Connecticut, and Costa Rican wrappers. Both the Lord Byron and the Antonius have rings of Connecticut and maduro wrappers. ([www.felipegregorio.com](http://www.felipegregorio.com))

## Re-creating the Past

Illusione No. 2 is a Nicaraguan *puro* made by the Fernandez y Fernandez factory in Honduras. Packed with 3-year-old Criollo 98 and Corojo 99 filler, and wrapped with dark Rosado Oscuro Corojo, the No. 2 is a commendable re-creation of the Nicaraguan cigars of the 1970s. It even includes the triple cap that is associated with those cigars. The nondescript, black-and-white band belies the powerful complexity that lurks within each cigar. Aged for one to three months after rolling, the cigar can be aged for an additional decade or more before it is lit. ([www.illusionecigars.com](http://www.illusionecigars.com))

## NICARAGUA

Nicaragua's rich, red soil—remarkably similar to the soil of Cuba's Vuelta Abajo—has enticed a number of Cuban cigar makers to emigrate across the Caribbean Sea and cultivate land that formerly was jungle.

Nicaragua is bordered by two other cigar-producing countries—Costa Rica to the south and Honduras to the north—yet tobacco is grown only in the northernmost portion of the country, primarily in the Jalapa and Esteli valleys. In addition, General Cigar has been cultivating new strains of filler tobaccos on the island of Ometepe, which was formed 12,000 years ago by two volcanoes (one of which is still active) that rose from Lake Nicaragua.

Although the thick, nutrient-rich soil produces tobaccos for some of the world's most flavorful cigars, Nicaragua's cigar industry has been hampered by domestic politics and war. During the 1970s, Nicaraguan cigars, which were dominated by Joya de Nicaragua, were hailed as superior even to some Havanas. However, their quality diminished during the conflict between the contras and the Sandinistas in the early '80s. Land cultivation and production methods have improved dramatically in recent years, but it remains to be seen how the governance of former Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, who became the country's president earlier this year, ultimately will affect the country's cigar industry.

## Long on Flavor

All of the Oliva cigars we have tried taste exceptionally smooth, but the **Oliva Special S Diadema** requires a new descriptor. The already-mellow smoke cools and filters as it travels the cigar's 9-inch length. The tobacco burns into a beautiful white ash and arrives at the tip as a rich flavor with just a trace of pepper. Few blends are so satisfying, though the Special S contains nothing exotic, just Nicaraguan filler and binder tobaccos wrapped in an Ecuadoran leaf. Other Special S sizes are available, but if time permits, light a Diadema. It is by far the most elegant and rewarding of the choices. ([www.olivacigar.com](http://www.olivacigar.com))

## Close to Cuban

The **Ashton San Cristobal** is a Nicaraguan *puro* made by Jose "Pepin" Garcia, who oversaw Cuba's cigar factories for 30 years. "The tobacco being grown in Nicaragua is very close to that of Cuba," Garcia says. "Esteli is like the Vuelta Arriba, and Jalapa is like Pinar del Río." From these two valleys he selects the tobaccos for San Cristobal. The rich, deep brown wrapper smells of sweet saddle leather: heavy and slightly musty. Of the six shapes, our favorite is the aptly named 6 1/8 x 52 Fabuloso. ([www.ashtoncigar.com](http://www.ashtoncigar.com))

## Mellowed with Age

The Toraño family began growing tobacco in Cuba in 1916, and it now operates farms and factories in both Nicaragua and Honduras. The **Toraño Noventa 90** is Nicaraguan through and through, with wrapper, binder, and filler tobaccos from four different regions of the country: Condega, Estelí, Jalapa, and Pueblo Nuevo. This cigar will shock smokers who assume all Nicaraguan tobacco is strong; many would peg this mellow, easy-smoking stick as a Dominican blend. It contains just a hint of the peppery character for which Nicaraguan leaves are known, yet its flavor is as mouth-filling and satisfying as that of any of the country's classic *puros*. ([www.torano.com](http://www.torano.com))

## Cigar on Steroids

The **Joya de Nicaragua Antaño** is a thundering giant with enough muscle to dominate the smokiest Islay single malts. Strong and earthy, this Cuban-seed Nicaraguan *puro* is pumped up further by a 3-year-old dark and oily Habano Criollo *ligero* wrapper, a leaf normally reserved for adding heft, in small doses, to the filler. The 6 x 54 *belicoso* is the most popular size, but three new shapes snagged our attention: the 7½ x 38 *lancero*, a 6¼ x 58 *perfecto*, and the 6 x 60 magnum. Do not smoke this cigar on an empty stomach. ([www.joyadenicaragua.com.ni](http://www.joyadenicaragua.com.ni))

## Mmmm, Chocolate

In the rush to produce extremely heavy-bodied cigars, the art of creating classic maduros seems to have receded. Maduros are wrapped in a dark brown, sun-grown leaf that is harvested later than normal and receives extra fermentation. The classic maduro flavor is full, smooth, and sweet, but not overpowering; many aficionados refer to the taste as chocolaty. All of these traits are present in the **Perdomo Habano Maduro**, a *puro* that combines tobaccos from the Condega, Estelí, and Jalapa regions. ([www.perdomocigars.com](http://www.perdomocigars.com))

## Stogie Start-up

Industry veterans founded the new EO Brands, and they have created a great product right out of the gate. The company's first effort is the **EO Brands 601 Serie**, three cigars crafted in Nicaragua by the same Jose "Pepin" Garcia who formulated the Ashton San Cristobal. The cigars are named Blue, Black, and Red for the color of their bands. In terms of strength, the Black lies in the middle, with a rich, mellow Connecticut-seed wrapper grown in Ecuador that just barely subdues the powerful Nicaraguan filler and binder leaves. ([www.eobrand.com](http://www.eobrand.com))



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Whiskey of the Week: West Cork 12 Year Old Rum Cask

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[Watch] These Arctic Adventurers Are Attempting Something Crazy

BY HYUNDAI

One hundred years later, Patrick Bergel, the great-grandson of Shackleton, took on the challenge of crossing Antarctica.

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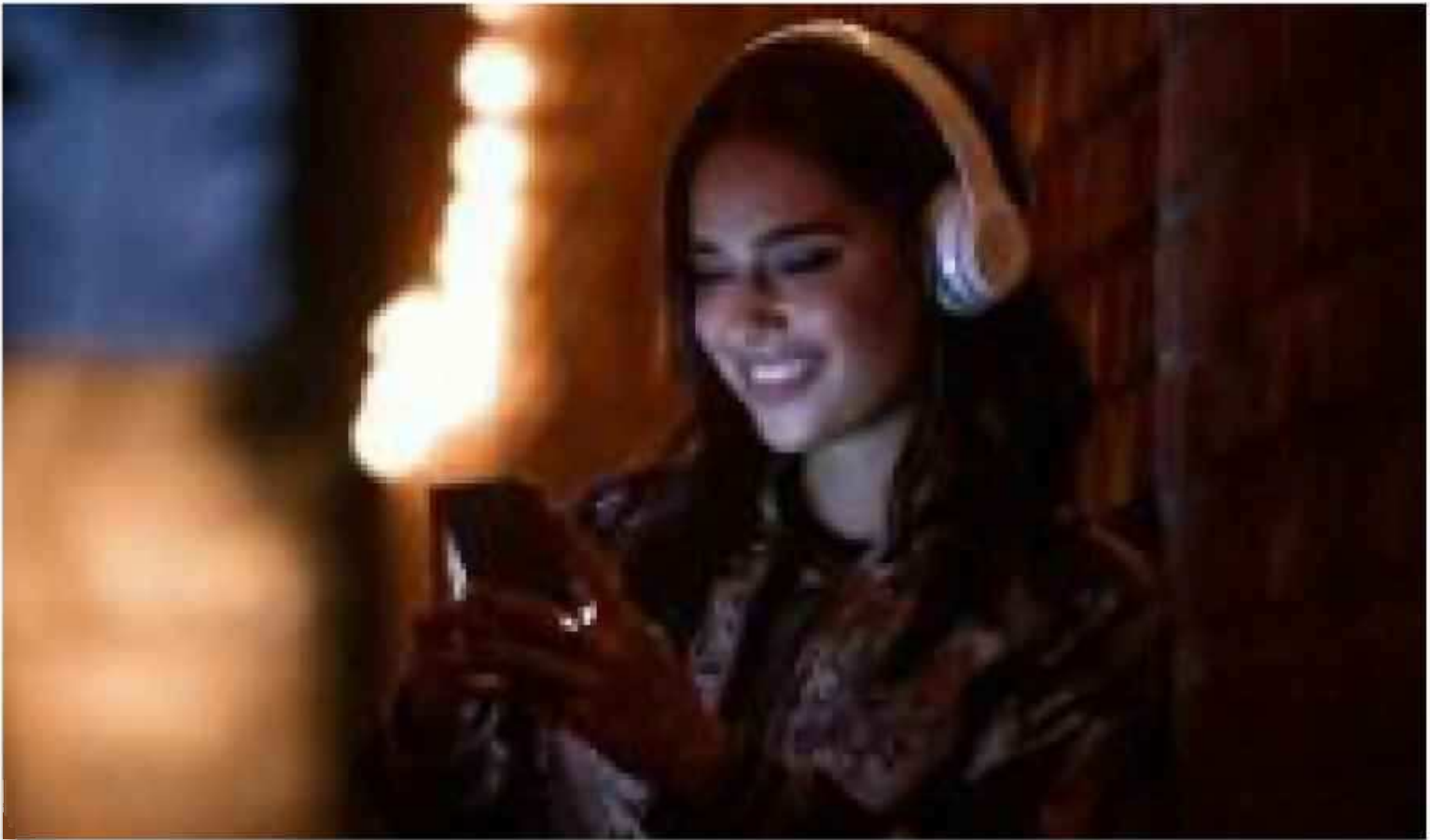


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# Robb Report

The Manual of Modern Luxury

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## Robb Report

### Havanas: A Buyer's Guide

TON HADNER JULY 20, 2015



REPORT, ROBB REPORT COLLECTION

*For opinion, not all Havanas are stellar stogies. Here is how to make the most of the relaxed new rules.*

Not American [cigar](#) smokers in Europe. They are the ones who overpay for a dried-out Cuban cigar and then spit it as the wrapper cracks and unwinds. But that does not matter, for they are relishing a forbidden fruit, no matter how the smoke may taste. Such is the siren song of Havana cigars, which undoubtedly would not have their popularity if they not been banned in America.

Since the embargo, Cuban cigars have acquired an enormous mystique in the United States. But the truth is, not all are great—in fact, about half of the roughly 40 brands produced there are not worth considering, now that U.S. citizens can buy back \$100 worth of Cuban smokes.

When President Barack Obama relaxed the rules imposed by the 1962 embargo. It is now permissible to bring \$400 worth of Cuban goods to the United States, \$100 of which can be cigars or alcohol. Because of the scarcity of Cuban cigars in this country, they are smuggled in illegally, though many of the so-called Cubans here are counterfeit—most Americans are not familiar with the brands. And being a hand-rolled [product](#), there are variances in the quality.

"The problem was about 15 years ago," says Jemma Freeman, the managing director of Hunters & Frankau, the United Kingdom's Havana cigar importer. "Even Habanos admit that things were not right in 1999 to 2000, and I believe the lesson of quality was learned in this period. Nevertheless, quality is always a priority for the tobacco industry in Cuba, and they have been addressing it since those days."

Hunters & Frankau inspects every box of Havanas sold in the U.K. and applies an EMS (English Market Selection) stamp to each box before it leaves the company's warehouse. Because of this and other quality controls, such as controlled humidity during storage, the U.K. is among the best places—along with Spain and Switzerland—to buy Cuban cigars. But American citizens will have to smoke them on the spot: The new regulations allow for importing \$100 worth of Cuban cigars only if those cigars are purchased in Cuba.

To make the most of that small allowance, remember that a steady supply of quality tobacco is scarce on this island nation, and there are only so many top (Grade 9) rollers, whose talents are reserved for the better brands, such as [Cohiba](#), [Montecristo](#), [Partagás](#), [Romeo y Julieta](#), and [H. Upmann](#), to name five of the most popular Havanas. A Grade 9 pedigree is evident in the

consistency of the shape, the smoothness of the wrapper, and the lack of any hard or soft spots along the body of the cigar itself. Some inferior cigars will be rolled too tightly, resulting in a difficult draw. Others will be too loosely constructed, allowing an overabundance of air to be taken in with the smoke, which often leads to hyperventilation—that light-headed feeling—while puffing.

Also keep in mind that counterfeits are rampant in Cuba, too, especially in Havana. Avoid buying from street vendors and hotel clerks, and choose reputable sources, including La Casa del Habano stores (which are partially owned by the Cuban government); direct sales at the factories; or the cigar shops of the better hotels, such as the Meliá [Cohiba](#) and the Iberostar Parque Central.

Finally, although La Casa del Habano offers fairly consistent prices and some of the best values, cigar costs can fluctuate elsewhere, so it is a good idea to shop around. Most Cuban cigars cost from \$7 to \$25, depending on [brand](#), [size](#), and where they are purchased. That means, under the newly relaxed rules, you can bring home approximately four to 14 authentic Havana cigars.

*(Continues on next page...)*

**Here are Robb Report Collection's top 10 recommendations.**

**Cohiba**, particularly the Espléndido or better yet, a Behike, a large-ringed variation that is the perfect digestif cigar. These are medium-full in character but not overpowering. However, newer smokers may want to select the kinder, gentler Cohiba Siglo series. According to Freeman, due to its popularity, Cohiba is the most frequently counterfeited [brand](#).

**Trinidad**. This started out as Castro's "secret" VIP cigar that replaced the Cohiba in popularity when it began to be sold to the public in 1982. As one of the most expensive choices, depending on where you buy it, four or five of these medium-full-flavored smokes will use up most, if not all, of your government-approved budget.

**Montecristo**. The No. 2 specifically is a perennial favorite. Medium-full-bodied, it carries an undertone of sweet spice.

**Partagás**. Series D, No. 4 (a robusto) is a popular [size](#) for this powerhouse brand. It is tantamount to smoking a porterhouse steak; if you have an hour to spare, try a Lusitania.

**H. Upmann**. Medium strength, this gentle smoke still retains enough earthiness to make it suitable for either early or late evenings.

**Romeo y Julieta**. Medium strength with a touch of sweetness, this is a perfect cigar when you are not quite sure what to buy.

**Punch**. Subtly powerful yet smooth, with a rich, leathery finish.

**Hoyo de Monterrey**. Fairly mild; think Irish whiskey, or blended Scotch.

**Vegas Robaina**. Medium full in flavor; one of the most complex and spicy Havanas around and perfect for any time after lunch and beyond.

**Cuaba**. The shapes are all figurados; a mild-mannered smoke ideal for novice and connoisseur alike.

*(Continues on next page...)*


## A Fresh Ingredient

Savvy Las Vegans know that the cigar lounge above André's Restaurant at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino provides a rare opportunity to enjoy a premium cigar from chef André Rochat's well-stocked humidor and a fine spirit from a list featuring 200 single malts, Cognacs, and Armagnacs. Now the Michelin one-star restaurant has remodeled its second-floor hideaway and reopened it as André's Cigar Lounge and Culinary Library ([andrely.com](#)).

The walls of this intimate lounge, which opened in March, are lined with nearly 700 cookbooks from Rochat's personal collection of

more than 1,000 volumes, as well as historic menus assembled during his 55 years in the culinary world. All of it is on display and available for guests to peruse and for chefs to borrow. Cookbooks date to the 18th century and include The First American Cookbook written by Amelia Simmons in 1796, autographed books by legends such as Julia Child, Joël Robuchon, and Paul Bocuse, and cookbooks by modern luminaries like Daniel Boulud, Thomas Keller, and Massimo Bottura. “This is now a place where people can read, eat, drink, and smoke a good [cigar](#),” Rochat says. “The only place like it in Las Vegas.”

Or anywhere else.

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#### MORE SPIRITS

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Whiskey of the Week: West  
Cork 12 Year Old Rum Cask  
Finish



## The Legendary Bowmore Gets a Japanese Twist



## Monogram Whiskey Blended Rye Is a Star



## This Whiskey Bar Is Baltimore's Worst-Kept Secret

A person is shown using a Technogym fitness machine in a modern, minimalist home setting. The machine is sleek and white, blending into the contemporary decor. The person is in motion, demonstrating the machine's use.

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**BY TECHNOGYM**

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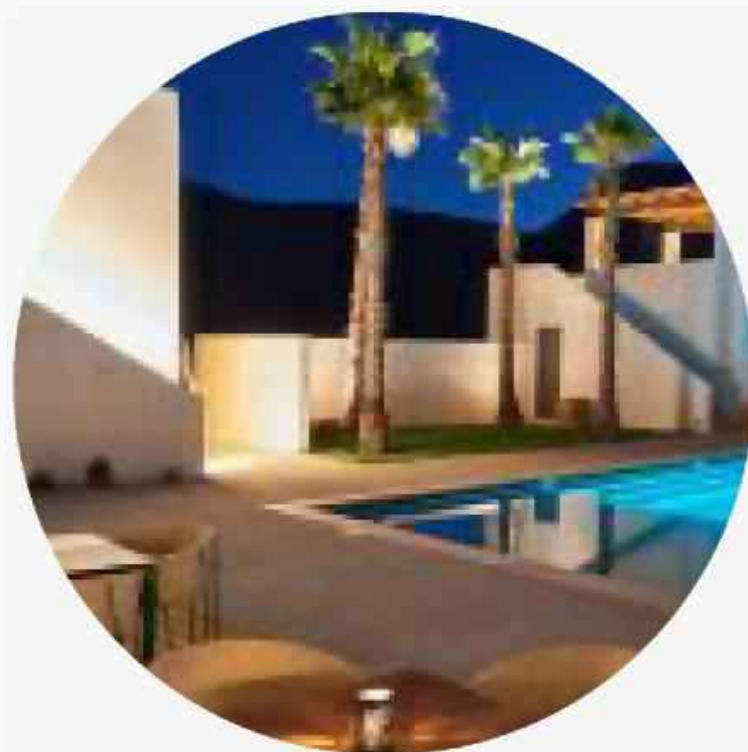
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**P. 48**





***If you've ever hoped to see authentic Old World cigar-making up close, now is the time. The window for truly experiencing the country known for producing legendary cigars may be closing—in more ways than one.***

**AS ANYONE WITH MORE** than a passing interest in cigars knows, the pendulum has been swinging back and forth for U.S.-Cuban relations in recent years. The diplomatic relations restored with much fanfare in 2014 were “canceled” earlier this year by President Donald J. Trump, who dubbed the previous administration’s policy a “completely one-sided deal with Cuba” that had to go. Fortunately, that doesn’t mean the door has shut for Americans looking to experience the country best known for its cigar-making tradition—or that it ever really will. However, travel to the biggest island in the Caribbean may become a lot more complicated.

The good news? First, while U.S. policy about travel to Cuba has changed, those changes have yet to take effect and will likely take many more months, if not longer, to be put into action. Second, rather than banning travel to Cuba outright, the new policy tightens already-existing conditions regarding who can travel and for what purpose—which means Americans determined to make their way to Cuba will probably still be able to find a way to visit legally (See sidebar: “Know Before You Go,” p. 50) long after they do come to pass.

#### **Steeped in Cigar History**

Still, if you’ve yearned to experience the island’s legendary cigar-making culture up close and personal, now is the time to make your travel plans, say veteran visitors. “I’ve gone every year for four years now,” says David Garofalo, founder and owner of Two Guys Cigars, who says tourism is making an impact on both Havana and cigar-making in Cuba. “It’s changed dramatically during that time; every year you see more and more of an American influence. If you really want to experience Cuban cigar-making history and culture, the sooner you can go, the better.”

For decades, Cuba stood still while time marched on. That may be changing now, but recent travelers still describe time capsule-style scenery: crumbling baroque

BY JENNIFER GELFAND





buildings, classic American cars and billboards disseminating communist propaganda about the very regime that has preserved the country like a living history museum.

"It's like the 1950s there," says Craig Cass, owner of Tinder Box of Charlotte, who traveled to Cuba in December 2016. "And there are cigars everywhere you go—walking to get ice cream one day I was approached 50 times by people who wanted to sell me cigars."

Monthly salaries average around \$30 so Cubans are accustomed to looking for ways to supplement their incomes—and for anyone working in cigar-making, selling cigars on the side is the natural path. "A guy working in a factory takes a little home every day and spends a month making a box of cigars that he'll sell for a few months' pay," explains Garofalo, who says that buying on the street might not get you the best cigars, but it will warm your heart. "My friends ribbed me about paying \$100 for a box of cigars I probably could have gotten for \$80, but these people really need the money. Another time, I told someone who couldn't change a \$20 to keep the change, and he gave me a smile like it was Christmas."

Most discerning visitors, however, report that buying cigars on the street is a chancy affair. "You will see a lot of street merchants, some of whom will try to get you to buy the worst-quality cigars, made of shavings off of the floor," warns Nicholas Syris, founder of LH Cigars, who has traveled to Cuba more than 50 times and has led group tours there. Syris says travelers need to vet their street purchases

carefully. "Cigar factory workers are allowed to take two cigars home a day, so they can choose to pack and sell those authentic cigars. But if you want to be sure of what you're getting, buy directly from the factories."

Even then, those who view Cuba as a mecca for cigar lovers may be surprised by what they find. Perhaps not surprisingly, reports suggest that the equipment in Cuba's cigar factories is just as charmingly antiquated as the streets and buildings in Old Havana.

#### Mystique or Myth

"Visiting the factories in Cuba, if you've been to Nicaragua or [the] Dominican Republic, will be an eye-opener," says Syris. "They don't use a *bunchero rolero* [bunch roller] or any machinery whatsoever; they have one guy working by hand, start to finish. Having said that, the quality control is the worst I've seen in the world."

Cass, whose trip included visits to factories, agreed, noting, "If I had to give an analogy, comparing the factories in Cuba to those in Nicaragua is like comparing high school football to the NFL. It was like the Old West in terms of quality control and the way things were run. People were selling cigars right off the table. When we go through sorting rooms in Nicaragua or [the] Dominican Republic, the cigars being put in boxes all look the same. In Cuba, the variance is as wide as one to 10. I think we're all spoiled in the sense that we take fabulous construction for granted—we're shocked when we find a cigar that doesn't burn properly."

## Know Before You Go

**Bring Cash.** Credit and ATM cards are usually convenient—but not in Cuba, where American cards and cash are virtually useless. "The good news is that you'll pay for your hotel upfront, so you'll unload a lot of cash right away," notes Garofalo, who advises bringing enough cash to fund your entire stay. "Also, there's no crime."

**Consider Alternate Accommodations.** Cuba has a shortage of hotel rooms, and the "foreigner" room rates at top hotels like the Saratoga Havana and the Hotel Nacional are pricey (\$450-\$600). "Casa particulars"—private home rentals—are an economical and comfortable alternative that can be booked on Airbnb.

**Save on the Exchange.** As with most foreign countries, you'll need to exchange your cash for the local currency. Since there's a 10 percent surcharge on exchanging U.S. dollars, Mark Ryan of D&R Tobacco suggests converting your cash to Canadian dollars or euros at home so you won't have U.S. bills to exchange in Cuba.

**Lower Your Luxury Expectations.** "Enjoy Cuba and the cultural immersion it offers, and don't get hung up on Western luxuries," advises Ryan, who attended the annual Festival Del Habano in Cuba last year. "It's easy to forget that it is essentially a third-world country—it's not uncommon for there to be no seat on the toilet. You just have to roll with it."

**Watch Out for "The Hustle."** Taxi drivers, cigar rollers, bartenders—pretty much everyone you run into in Cuba is on the make, says Syris, who recounts bringing a tour group into a hotel bar and being asked for a per-person admission fee. "You have to recognize that these people work for \$1 a day; they can't live on that," he explains, noting that taxi drivers will routinely "forget" to turn on meters. "They work to be able to steal because if they don't steal, they don't eat. That's a mindset and mentality that you need to understand."

**Don't Forget Your Souvenir Money.** Thanks to a loosening on restrictions, Americans can bring unlimited amounts of goods back from Cuba, although you'll pay taxes on anything over 100 cigars or \$800 in value. Keep in mind, you are prohibited from reselling any cigars you carry home.



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Another veteran visitor to the country, who declined to be identified, reported that 15 percent of the cigars coming out of any given factory there are unsmokable. "The cash flow there is so bad that they don't have time to age out the tobacco after it's brought in from the field," he said. "So if you buy them direct while you're there, you probably have to lay them down so that that aging can occur."

There are, however, good-quality cigars being made in Cuba—you just have to find them. "You need to know where to buy," says Syris. "The sanctioned cigar shops in Havana that have a master roller ambassador assigned to them creating custom blends are one of the best places."

"My understanding is that the farmers keep a percentage of their tobacco and that some of the most spectacular cigars being made never make it to market—they're sold privately," adds Cass, who notes that the lack of consistency of product convinced him that, were the embargo to be lifted and American retailers to have access to Cuban cigars, their allure would be short-lived. "For a few months there would be a rush on Cuban cigars, but people would figure it out pretty quickly," he says. "It would take several years for Cuban quality and volume to catch up enough to create a [healthy, sustainable] market."

Yet strides are being made toward that goal, notes Garofalo, who says that the Cuban government invited his counsel after he critiqued the state of Cuban cigar-making facilities in a travel blog about his first trip. "They invited me back for the Habanos Festival, and they showed me that they were trying to improve their game," he explained, noting that on his return trip he was quizzed on recommendations. "They took me to where they stored cigars and showed me a dehumidifier they had put in to get their moisture down to where it needs to be. They seem genuinely interested in improvements. You could see that they were trying to gear up to enter the U.S. market now that the embargo was being lifted."

While Cuba might not entirely live up to its cigar-making reputation just yet, the tobacco being grown there is undeniably special. "Cuban tobacco is a unique-flavored tobacco, unlike anything else, and a wonderful component of a cigar," says Garofalo. "The real magic will be when this ingredient becomes available to other manufacturers. That will be a big winner."

What's more, despite the quality issues, cigar lovers who visit Cuba universally rave about their travels and offer the ultimate endorsement: plans to go back. "Cuba's attraction goes beyond a forbidden fruit mystique," says Garofalo, who is hoping to attend the 2018 Habanos Festival in February. "Traveling there gives you a window into a whole different world—and it's great to be able to smoke a cigar in public without anyone looking at you funny." **TB**



Nicholas Syris (second from right) leading a tour stop at the tobacco farm of Hector Luis Prieto Diaz in Pinar del Rio.

## Is Travel to Cuba Still Legal?

Technically, tourist travel to Cuba has been prohibited for decades. However, in 2014, President Barack Obama loosened restrictions on travel to Cuba, allowing travel to the country as long as travelers applied for one of 12 categories of authorized travel and kept records of their travel schedules for at least five years afterward. This policy was practiced on an honor system under the previous administration but will be more strictly enforced if the provisions outlined by President Trump go into effect.

Trump's policy will once again ban Americans from planning their own trips to Cuba, requiring them to travel through a licensed tour company under U.S. jurisdiction and be accompanied by a company representative. Furthermore, Americans will be prohibited from doing business with hotels and other businesses that are "under the control of, or act for or on behalf of, the Cuban military, intelligence or security services or personnel ... its affiliates, subsidiaries and successors."

Since all the hotels in Cuba are state-owned and many are military-run, these requirements could curtail travel severely and make travel more challenging. What's more, according to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which licenses travel to Cuba, the new rules mandate that a "traveler's schedule of activities must not include free time or recreation in excess." This essentially means that travelers will be following government-approved itineraries, staying in preapproved hotels and participating only in sanctioned activities.

That said, the restrictions have yet to be put in place and, because they require the government to develop a list of Cuban entities with whom Americans are forbidden to do business, they will likely take time to enact and enforce. The upshot? If you act fast, you probably have time to sneak in a trip before the policy changes. After that, you'll still be able to go to Cuba, but your trip will take longer to plan and you'll have a lot less flexibility once you're there.

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BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

In the matter of Trademark Registration No. 1147309

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: February 17, 1981

AND

In the matter of the Trademark Registration No. 1898273

For the mark COHIBA

Date registered: June 6, 1995

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Petitioner,	:	
	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
v.	:	
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GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.,	:	
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Respondent.	:	
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Steven Abbot – Annex EE

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Cohiba Engagement Calendar		
Event Date	Engagement (Event/Media)	City/State
10/2/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/29/2020	Behind the Band	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/25/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/22/2020	Behind the Band	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/18/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/15/2020	Behind the Band	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/11/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/8/2020	Behind the Band	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/4/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
9/3/2020	Sip N Smoke- Uncle Nearest Whisky	N/A: Media Interview
9/1/2020	Behind the Band	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
8/30/2020	Casa Ferrari featuring the Cohiba Lounge	East Hampton, NY
8/28/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
8/25/2020	Behind the Band	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
8/21/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
8/19/2020	Famous Smoke FB Live	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
8/14/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
8/9/2020	Cigar Bratt Live with Sean Williams	N/A: Media Interview
8/7/2020	Nightcap with Cohiba	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
7/22/2020	Bourbon and BS Podcast	N/A: Media Interview
7/7/2020	Smokeasy Blog Interview	N/A: Media Interview
7/3/2020	Bar Royal Blog Interview	N/A: Media Interview
6/10/2020	Bourbon Blog Interview	N/A: Media Interview
5/31/2020	Light Em Lounge- Cigar Journal Interview	N/A: Media Interview
5/24/2020	Cigar Bratt Live with Sean Williams	N/A: Media Interview
5/7/2020	Deep Cuts Live- Tobacco Business	N/A: Media Interview
4/30/2020	JR Cigar Roundtable	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
4/20/2020	CI Nation Live	N/A: Virtual Zoom Event
1/23/2020	Sundance Film Festival	Park City, UT
11/29/2019	Robb Report Car of The Year	Boca Raton, FL
10/18/2019	Miami MegaHerf	Miami, FL
9/20/2019	Robb Report's Culinary Masters	San Diego, CA
9/7/2019	Cohiba Cup- Myopia Polo Club	South Hamilton, MA
8/16/2019	Northwest Cigar Fest	Camas, WA
7/12/2019	Metropolitan Society Dinner	Fairfield, NJ
4/19/2019	Texas Cigar Fest	Houston, TX
2/27/2019	JR Cigar Interview	Whippany, NJ
2/26/2019	Best Cigar Prices Interview	Drums, PA
2/9/2019	Barrels & Leaf Cigar Blog Interview	N/A: Media Interview
1/31/2019	Ditka-Jaws Superbowl Bash	Atlanta, GA
1/25/2019	Sundance Film Festival	Park City, UT
12/5/2018	Metropolitan Society Dinner	Fairfield, NJ
10/20/2018	Miami MegaHerf	Miami, FL
10/16/2018	Detroit Athletic Club Dinner	Detroit, MI

9/21/2018	Robb Report's Culinary Masters	San Diego, CA
9/8/2018	Cohiba Cup- Myopia Polo Club	South Hamilton, MA
9/5/2018	Louis XIII Dinner	Los Angeles, CA
8/25/2018	Rocky Mountain CigarFest	Denver, CO
8/18/2018	Ferrari Brunch	East Hampton, NY
6/20/2018	Barrett-Jackson Auto Show	Mohegan Sun, CT
2/14/2018	Porsche- Grand Opening Event	Irvine, CA
1/27/2018	Smooth Draws Radio Show	Atlanta, GA
1/20/2018	Sundance Film Festival	Park City, UT
1/17/2018	Barrett-Jackson Auto Show	Scottsdale, AZ
11/28/2017	Metropolitan Society Dinner	Fairfield, NJ
11/16/2017	Big Smoke	Las Vegas, NV
11/4/2017	Whiskies of The World	Atlanta, GA
10/23/2017	Robb Report's Culinary Masters	Dana Point, CA
10/20/2017	Memphis Smoke	Memphis, TN
9/15/2017	Cyber Security Summitt	New York, NY
9/8/2017	Little Smoke	Spokane, WA
9/1/2017	Black Smoke Miami	Miami, FL
7/22/2017	Aston Martin Brunch	East Hampton, NY